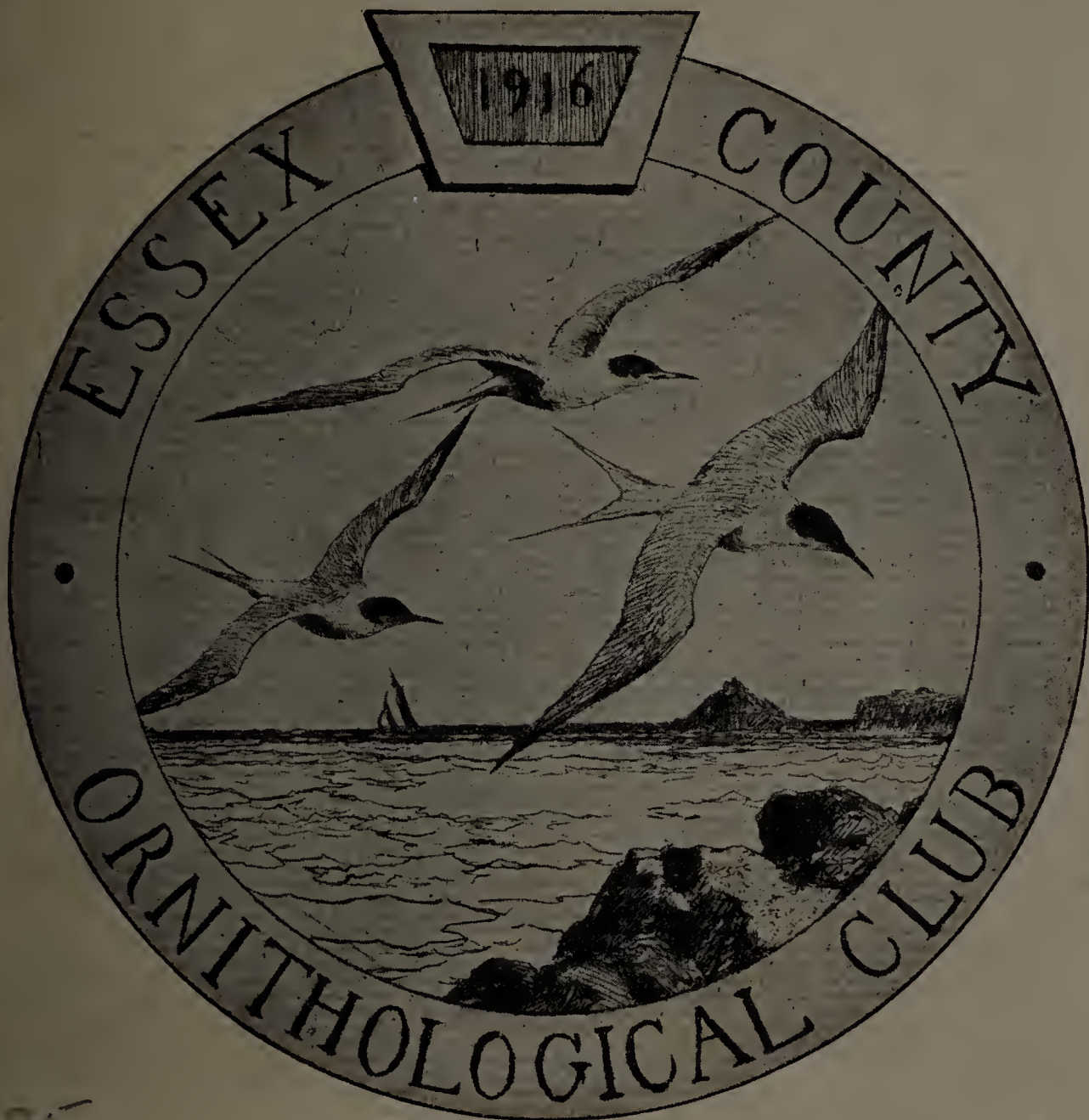


BULLETIN

OF THE



E
E1 S1
S1 E3
1938

1937-1938

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Officers	2	Experiences With Northern Shrikes <i>S. G. Emilio</i>	58
Foreword	3	Offshore	<i>R. C. Curtis</i> 61
Changes in Status of Essex County Birds.....		A Mockingbird at Gloucester	<i>J. S. Y. Hoyt</i> 63
..... <i>J. C. Phillips</i>	4	Clapper Rail at Gloucester	<i>J. S. Y. Hoyt</i> 63
The Benson Exhibit	<i>D. L. Garrison</i> 22	Annotated List of Birds for 1937 <i>S. G. Emilio</i>	64
The Ipswich River Trips	<i>E. S. Dodge</i> 25	Annotated List of Birds for 1938 <i>S. G. Emilio</i>	83
Fifteen Christmas Censuses in Danvers		Additions and Corrections to "A List of the	
..... <i>S. G. Emilio</i>	47	Birds of Essex County"	<i>S. G. Emilio</i> 104
Owl Notes	<i>W. T. Perkins</i> 51	Club Calendar for 1937 and 1938	117
Chimney Swifts From the Forests		Former Members of the E. C. O. C.	120
..... <i>Wendell Taber</i>	56	List of Members	122



THE LIBRARY
OF THE
ESSEX INSTITUTE



PRESENTED BY

Russell L. Jackson

Received *Mar. 14, 1947*

20-6-41 3M

E E1 S5 S1 E3 1938

BULLETIN
OF THE
Essex County Ornithological Club
OF
Massachusetts



1937-1938

ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.

Salem, Massachusetts

OFFICERS OF THE
ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

1937-1938

Honorary President

FRANK W. BENSON

President

RALPH LAWSON

Vice-President

R. EMERSON WOLFE

Secretary

THEODORE L. SOUTHACK, JR.

Treasurer

ELMER P. FOYE

Recorder

S. GILBERT EMILIO

*Council, the Officers
and the following*

1937

BENJAMIN SHREVE
WILLIAM A. MARCY
FRED W. BUSHBY

1938

FRED W. BUSHBY
DONALD C. ALEXANDER
FRANK B. LAWSON

*Gift
Russell & Barker
Mar 19 1938*

E
= 1 SS
S 1 E 3
1938

BULLETIN
OF THE
ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF MASSACHUSETTS

Editorial Committee:

Donald C. Alexander, Ernest S. Dodge, S. Gilbert Emilio

DECEMBER, 1938

SALEM, MASS.

NUMBERS 19 & 20

FOREWORD

THE attendance at meetings of the Club has held up well during the past two years. There is, however, a noticeable change in the faces seen at these meetings. A number of the older members who were regular attendants now come rarely but their places seem to have been filled by a younger group which appears at nearly every gathering.

At the Annual Meeting in December 1938 there were several changes in the officers of the Club which are not indicated on the preceding page. Ernest S. Dodge was elected Secretary, replacing Theodore L. Southack, Jr., and Donald C. Alexander takes the Recorder's office that S. Gilbert Emilio has held for so many years.

Dr. John C. Phillips, who died in November 1938, was a Charter Member of this Club. It is small consolation that he handed us the manuscript of the following article over seven months before his death, for we have been honored by his association with us for over a generation and by his frequent worthwhile contributions to the pages of this *Bulletin*. His passing at scarcely beyond the prime of life was a great shock and irreparable loss to the many who knew him.

CHANGES IN STATUS OF ESSEX COUNTY BIRDS

JOHN C. PHILLIPS

Essex County has become locally quite famous among those whose hobby is field identification of birds, due partly to its accessibility from Boston and also because there is a greater variety of terrain than in most other counties. We can offer to the birds not only a bit of Cape Cod, but also our rocky North Shore and islands, our coniferous woods and great areas of inland swamps and fresh meadows. Our coast line is a very long one, and very accessible.

Dr. Townsend published his splendid monograph on the birds of Essex County in 1905, and fifteen years later a Supplement appeared as No. V of the Memoirs of the Nuttall Ornithological Club (1920). But now another eighteen years has slipped by; and since the County has been under much more intensive observation than in Townsend's day, changes in status of birds are more easily recognized. The members of The Essex County Ornithological Club have contributed valuable material, especially Mr. Gilbert Emilio of the Peabody Museum in Salem, and Mr. Ludlow Griscom of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, who have been very frequently in the field, as have other excellent observers. Many unique observations have lately been made in our County, by these two men and others, and I have used their assistance with gratitude and without shame.

Beginning at the north end of Essex County, the most popular places may be mentioned briefly. Along the Merrimac River there are the rice beds, in the town of West Newbury, especially off the Indian River mouth, a good place for Rails in season, and also Ducks and Herons.

The Artichoke River basins, now a water supply, are protected from shooting, and the upper or southerly basin is especially attractive to water birds of all kinds, while the swamps and open country surrounding this basin make a good observation point for Hawks, pasture-loving species, besides Snipe and Rails.

Newburyport harbor is one of the best places on our Massachusetts coast to see large numbers of wintering Ducks and Geese, while Plum Island, now mostly a sanctuary owned by the State Audubon Society, is worth visiting for all sorts of migrants, especially the shore birds in season.

The great Common Pastures west of Newburyport are different from nearly every other section of Massachusetts. Very wet in places and no doubt gradually going back to a natural state, they

are still fairly open; and here you may see our few remaining Upland Plover, besides many Killdeer and Prairie Horned Larks, and perhaps the little-seen Grasshopper Sparrow.

Lake Attitash or Kimball's Pond, in the town of Amesbury is worth looking over for Ducks.

The salt meadows along the Parker River in Newbury are famous ground for shore birds on high tides, especially when the grass has been mowed, as it has been in recent years.

Most popular of all bird haunts, without doubt, is Clark's Pond, at the east end of Great Neck in Ipswich. This is not as secluded a spot as in Dr. Townsend's day, for the settlement of Little Neck is encroaching, but it still is a "Mecca" for the field glass observers and is visited, I do not doubt, nearly every day in summer and early fall. It has grown up heavily to bulrushes since Townsend's day so the air fauna is different. Among the Gulls and Terns the Black Tern is no longer seen regularly. Of the Ducks, the Widgeon, not mentioned in Townsend's list of Ducks at Clark's Pond, is now not uncommon, while the Lesser Scaup and the Ring Necks have practically vanished. The Wood Duck and the Bufflehead, however, have been added to the Townsend list for this pond. Among Herons, the Yellow-crowned Night Heron is now seen nearly every summer, while the Little Blues and the Egrets are far more common than fifteen or twenty years ago.

With the shore birds the conditions are not so favorable as they were before the bulrushes invaded the pond. The Wilson's Phalarope seems to be the only new species. But on the other hand, the Virginia Rail now breeds there, and the Sora is a regular visitor; while Coots and Gallinules and Long-billed Marsh Wrens are found in the dense cover.

Continuing with our list of observation points, we still have the beaches, Ipswich and Wingaersheek, but now much more populated with picnickers than they used to be. In Topsfield and Boxford, the Boxford Reservation is good for Owls and Grouse, and Lockwood's Pond and Fish Brook, for Wood Ducks. Of the islands we have Milk and Thatcher's and the Salvages, favored by winter seafowl; while Gloucester harbor is a great attraction for rare Gulls in winter.

Of the many other localities, I need mention only Egg Rock off Manchester; Peach's Point at Marblehead; Nahant; the Lynnfield meadows (west, center and east Bays); the Topsfield meadows along the Ipswich River; the Miles River meadows in Hamilton, Pleasant Pond, Wenham Lake; and Suntaug Lake. This latter

pond used to be a great place for odd species of Ducks, but with the destruction of upper Lynn harbor it has fallen off greatly in the past twenty years. Wenham Lake, in spite of the absence of a Duck blind, is a far less interesting sheet of water than it was even five years ago. The Beverly Airport is, no doubt, a disturbing factor.

In the following notes I shall call attention to only the more important changes among the more easily observed birds, omitting many doubtful cases among the smaller passerines.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. Griscom and Mr. Emilio for the greater part of my precise information, and for checking my own much more vague knowledge. Where there is no change of numerical status so far as we can see, the species will not, as a rule be mentioned.

The Horned Grebe, *Colymbus auritus*, is not so common on salt or fresh water, due probably to the prevalence of oil. It is recorded now as a "summer casual," but it is not a "common winter visitor" as Townsend records it.

The common Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps podiceps*, is now certainly a regular breeder, having been found nesting on the Fay estate in Lynn, and in 1937 on the Higginson meadow in Wenham, just west of Cedar Pond and other places. It has been seen as early as March 13. On migration it is probably about as common as always.

Of the Loons, the Common *Gavia i. immer* is not so plentiful as it used to be. Oil has certainly taken a great toll.

Little Auks, *Alle alle*, appear in numbers only during certain bad storms while they are on migration, the last great visitation being in 1932, but others of considerable extent appeared in November, 1927, and December, 1936, and November, 1937.

Pomarine Jaeger, *Stercorarius pomarinus*—no change except a good flight reported in 1937, when many were observed near our shores.

The Ivory Gull, *Pagophila alba*, is no longer a doubtful visitor, as there are several good records (January 13, 1935, and January 12, 1936).

The Kittiwake, *Rissa t. tridactyla*, is not so much a common winter visitor as it is a common late fall migrant, but there is probably no change here. The Glaucous Gull or Burgomaster, *Larus hyperboreus*, has shown a great winter increase and there are recent sporadic spring and summer records up to June 4. It is common around the fish wharves. Even commoner is the Iceland Gull, *Larus leucopterus*, which should now be regarded as "com-

mon or regular" instead of "uncommon." It is perhaps three or four times as common as the Glaucous Gull.

Kumlien's Gull, *Larus kumlieni*, is no longer a "rare winter visitor" but is seen annually at many coastal points and is now a regular winter visitor with one record as late as May 10.

One of the most noticeable changes is seen in the Great Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*, which, instead of being merely a winter visitor, now breeds regularly on Egg Rock, Manchester, the Gooseberrys off Salem, and several other islands, and should be classed as resident throughout the year. I have even seen it at Wenham Lake (November, 1937) with Herring Gulls.

Since Townsend's time the Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*, has continued to increase and now breeds in several suitable situations in our County. It is rapidly becoming a nuisance. More and more I notice Gulls feeding inland on wet meadows, which shows their available food supply is being exhausted, or at least completely utilized.

The Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis*, is not "rare in winter" as Townsend records it. It is not uncommon in spring or fall and it seems to be rare only in summer. It does not, of course, breed.

Very great changes have taken place with the Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla*. Instead of being a "not uncommon transient" it is now an abundant migrant and common summer visitor, although it does not breed. It seems to arrive earlier and stay later every year. It is not so common north of Cape Ann as it is south of it.

Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini*, not included in Townsend's list, is represented now by two sight records, but may be included only in the Hypothetical List, as yet.

Franklin's Gull, *Larus pipixcan*, is represented by one specimen in the Peabody Museum, taken October 28, 1885 (not mentioned in the Townsend Supplement).

The European Black-headed Gull, *Larus r. ridibundus*, is also a new species for our County. We have one specimen and a number of sight records of at least three other birds. It may be called a straggler only.

The Caspian Tern, *Hydroprogne caspia imperator* (A.O.U. 1931), recorded previously as a "not uncommon transient," is much more rare than formerly. So far as we know there is only one breeding colony left (in the St. Lawrence basin). On the other hand Forster's Tern, *Sterna forsteri*, is now recorded nearly every year, from late July to November (Newburyport harbor), and can

no longer be considered a "very rare transient visitor" as Townsend considered it.

Our Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*, is increasing greatly all over Massachusetts and now breeds off Manchester, and would probably breed on Milk Island if the rats could be controlled. It has been seen from May 7 to November 25. The Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea*, also has shown a marked increase all over Massachusetts, a great increase on migration in Essex County, and probably nests with us. It has been seen as late as October 16 and as early as May 10, so that its season is greatly extended since Townsend's observations were recorded.

The Black Tern, *Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*, is probably more rare than Townsend thought it was. It is certainly a rare transient and not "an uncommon transient." It is of course common south of Cape Cod.

Among the Shearwaters and Petrels our observers consider the Greater Shearwater, *Puffinus gravis*, as rare now and never as common as Townsend records it. The Black Skimmer, *Rynchops n. nigra*, is a new bird for our region, with one specimen taken on August 26, 1924, and others seen to October 9 of that same season.

The Sooty Shearwater, *Puffinus griseus*, seems to be a rare summer visitor rather than a "not uncommon summer resident."

Leach's Petrel, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, is a bird that has changed very much for the worse. It is far less common than formerly and is becoming rare even on its breeding grounds, possibly due to the enormous increase of Gulls on the same islands.

Of the two species of Cormorants, the so-called Common or European species, *Phalacrocorax c. carbo*, is now a common winter resident and shows a tendency to increase. It is no longer considered an "uncommon transient and winter visitor." The Double-crested species or Shag, *Phalacrocorax a. auritus*, is probably increasing.

Coming now to the Ducks, we believe that the Goosander, *Mergus merganser americanus*, is not as common in our ponds and streams as it used to be. I do not see them as often at Wenham Lake, either spring or fall, but some are seen in the Artichoke basin and in the lower Merrimac. Near the chain bridge they winter. Any change here is probably merely a local affair, due to shifting food supply and disturbance.

The Shelldrake, or Red-breasted Merganser, *Mergus serrator*, does not seem to winter with us in as large numbers as a few years ago and it is also less common on the outer Cape. All the sea Ducks are somewhat reduced in numbers, due perhaps to oil and

possibly to the failure of eel grass. Nevertheless the fall and spring migrations seem to be about the same as before.

The beautiful Hooded Merganser, *Lophodytes cucullatus*, once a very common species in autumn at Wenham, showed a marked decrease from about 1905 to 1925. But in the last ten years there has been a slow but steady recovery, although it cannot be considered a common water bird even now. It has recently been recorded as breeding in the Nashua River swamp at Pepperel, Massachusetts, and at Farmington, Connecticut.

A new species for our County is the European Sheld Duck, *Tadorna tadorna*, a specimen having been taken on October 5, 1921, a stray bird merely.

Among the true Ducks the Mallard, *Anas p. platyrhynchos*, once quite common in certain years but never regularly plentiful, is now certainly rare and growing more so, as most western-bred Ducks are.

Our Red-legged Black Duck, *Anas r. rubripes*, has changed a great deal, both in status and habits, in recent years. We have a winter population of fifteen hundred to several thousand, but on the whole greatly reduced since the failure of eel grass and the very severe winter of 1933-1934. The summer population is, however, greater than it used to be in Townsend's day, while at the same time the migration seems to be less. There was a very marked recovery in the summer and autumn of 1937, a really remarkable come-back.

The Common Black Duck, *Anas rubripes tristis*, which is now considered the breeding bird from southern New England to Virginia, and rare north of New England, also showed similar tendencies. For practical purposes, of course, both races must be "lumped."

For the Gadwall, *Chaulelasmus streperus*, always a very rare Duck, we have a few more records from March 20 to January 15, but there is probably no change in status. The European Widgeon, *Mareca penelope*, is not taken as frequently as twenty or thirty years ago—probably because fewer Baldpates are shot than formerly.

The Baldpate itself, *Mareca americana*, has taken to visiting Clark's Pond in some numbers in the past two or three years and has probably decreased less than most western-breeding Ducks, owing to its far northern breeding range; but it is much rarer at Wenham than it used to be.

A great change has taken place in the Green-winged Teal, *Net-*

tion carolinense, which visit us. They have shown a very marked increase, appear much earlier in the autumn than formerly, and stay a long time. It is hard to account for this. The European Teal, *Nettion crecca*, is still on our Hypothetical List, but is occasionally identified.

One of the bright spots in our local ornithological history is the increase in Blue-winged Teal, *Querquedula discors*. From a "rare spring and common autumn migrant" it has become a rare, though regular breeder, although the nest and eggs have not been found.* It has certainly bred at Clark's Pond, and at Heartbreak Pond and in the extensive Lynnfield swamps. It has likewise become a common breeder in Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, as well as at the north end of Lake Champlain. It is abundant now on migration, arrives early and stays rather late. This local increase goes hand in hand with the destruction of the breeding grounds and decrease of this teal in the Mississippi Valley and Prairie states.

The Shoveller, *Spatula clypeata*, always a very rare Duck north of Boston, is commoner: that is, we have many more County records. It is more common around New York than forty years ago and nests in New Jersey. We now have late County records for December 27 and January 9.

There is no especial change in the numbers of Pintails, *Dafla acuta tzitzihoa*. A few have wintered with us in recent years and very rarely I have seen a flock in spring on the Topsfield Meadows. One autumn they were almost plentiful.

The Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa*, has shown an almost fabulous increase. It is now three or four times as plentiful in the breeding season as the local Black Duck. This has nearly all happened in the past fifteen years and is a most noteworthy example of increase under restrictive laws, in fact, the case is unique. We have a number of late records. Almost every suitable nesting site is now occupied and there is an influx of migrants in September.

A much less hopeful picture is that of the Redhead, *Nyroca americana*, which although never a plentiful species north of Boston, has now become one of our rarest Ducks. The same remarks apply to the Canvas-back, *Nyroca valisineria*, though perhaps it is a little commoner than the Redhead.

Turning to the next species, the Lesser Scaup, *Nyroca affinis*, we find the same story. In fact, nearly all the diving Ducks are on the wane. Formerly one of the commonest Ducks on Wenham

* Nest and eggs were found in June 1938. (Eds.)

Lake, the Lesser Scaup is now one of the rarest. Only one or two are recorded in our County in an autumn flight. On its wintering grounds it is probably not over ten per cent as numerous as it used to be.

The Ring-neck, *Nyroca collaris*, strange to relate has held its own both with us and also all along the south Atlantic coast. It has recently been found nesting in Maine as well as in Pennsylvania. Although an uncommon Duck in our County, it may be said to be a regular migrant, and a few winter with us. Forty years ago it was considered almost our rarest Duck and my first records at Wenham produced a real sensation.

The Golden-eyes show no marked change, although the common species seem to have a smaller wintering population, due no doubt to local changes in feeding grounds. Barrow's Golden-eye, *Glaucionetta islandica*, is not "accidental" as Townsend records it, but a regular winter visitor in very small numbers. This change is possibly more apparent than real, dependent on the greater number of observers.

The Buffle-head, *Charitonetta albeola*, after showing a marked decrease in the first quarter of the century, may now be holding its own. The same numbers appear each year in Newburyport harbor and at Lynn. About one hundred and fifty are usually seen in fall and winter off Swampscott.

Oil may account for a seeming great decrease of the hardy Oldsquaw, *Harelda hyemalis*, which is certainly hunted less now than formerly on the New England coast. This Duck does not winter with us in as large numbers as it used to and the same is true for Cape Cod waters. The migratory "population" is probably about the same. This is one of the Ducks hard hit by floating oil and may not be holding its own.

The Harlequin Duck, *Histrionicus h. histrionicus*, from being a "very rare winter visitor" may now be said to be a regular winter visitor in very small numbers off Cape Ann. It has been seen nearly every winter since 1928. Of course it has never been so consistently looked for as in the past ten years, which may account for an apparent increase but not for a real one.

I need not say much about the Eiders. There was a marked flight of King Eiders, *Somateria spectabilis*, seen mostly south of Cape Cod, in the winter of 1936-1937.

The Scoters have undoubtedly changed their habits since Townsend wrote. They are far less common on inland waters. The Black Scoter, *Oidemia americana*, has decreased decidedly and is no

longer even a "common transient." The White-winged species, *Melanitta deglandi*, winters only in small numbers and the Surf Scoter, *Oidemia perspicillata*, is rare in winter and not as abundant on migration as formerly.

The Ruddy Duck, *Erismatura jamaicensis rubida*, in spite of protection, shows little real increase. It is now a rare fall migrant north of Cape Cod and has decreased at Wenham Lake more than almost any other Duck.

The Snow and Blue Geese (*Chen hyperboreus* and *atlantica* and *Chen caerulescens*) remain as always very rare transients and not until October, 1938, was there a specimen of the Greater Snow Goose, *Chen atlantica*, taken in the County. A very large flock of Snow Geese (probably *atlantica*) was seen in recent years, in a dense snowstorm, over Wenham Lake.

A new record since Townsend's day is that of a specimen of the Pink-footed Goose of Europe, *Anser brachyrhynchus*, shot September 25, 1924.

The Canada Goose, *Branta c. canadensis*, has undoubtedly gone down seriously in numbers since the eel grass failed; and the Brant, *Branta bernicla glaucogastra*, has suffered still more, being now only a rare transient. Of course we never had any real Brant gathering place on our coast, but the species was a common enough sight in Ipswich Bay on migration.

Coming now to the Heron tribe, there is an interesting new record for us in the appearance of two Eastern Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis f. falcinellus*, at Plum Island in the spring of 1935. This is a most remarkable occurrence and goes hand in hand with the discovery of a huge new colony on Red Light Reef in Lake Okecho-bee, Florida.*

The Least Bittern, *Ixobrychus e. exilis*, continues a very rare summer resident, breeding at Lynnfield and probably on the upper Parker River and in the Topsfield Meadows. Our Great Blue Heron, *Ardea h. herodias*, is much more common on migration than it used to be and may yet be recorded as breeding. The nearest breeding colony is now the one in the Harvard Forest at Petersham, Massachusetts.

The southern breeding Herons all seem to be commoner than they were. The Egret, *Casmerodias albus egretta*, is now a regular early summer visitor, often common, especially so in 1937, which was a record year. It is remarkable to see these great birds feeding

* Another sight record overlooked by Dr. Phillips is that of one bird seen at Ipswich May 21, 1932. (Eds.)

almost in somebody's dooryard, or close to a well-traveled motor road without being molested. This would not have been the case twenty-five years ago, we may be sure.

The Snowy Egret, *Egretta t. thula*, is still, curiously enough, on our Hypothetical List, although I am informed that Mr. E. O. Damon told Mr. Aaron Bagg that the bird he shot "prior to 1887" was taken in Newbury at the mouth of the Parker River and *not* at Northampton.

The Little Blue Heron, *Florida c. caerulea*, especially the young in white plumage, have shown a similar great increase. They are now regular summer visitors, 1931 being the best year.

Our Black-crowned Night Herons, *Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*, have not decreased but seem now to be much more scattered at the breeding season. The large Ipswich Beach colony, described by Dr. Townsend, was first abandoned and then the large colony at Plum Island was abandoned in 1935. The Hamilton colony, on the Mathews estate, also ran out about 1916 or 1917. It is evident that the habit of the species is to "wear out" an area, kill the trees, and then move on. They are now seldom persecuted, although a few are shot by discouraged gunners in the autumn, and it may be they are edible to some of our foreign population.

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron, *Nyctanassa v. violacea*, is no longer merely an "accidental visitor from the South," for we have numerous records from 1926 to 1937, and one of them (1928) a breeding record. The birds are seen at Clark's Pond and elsewhere.

The Sandhill Crane, *Grus canadensis tabida*, was recorded by Townsend, and quite correctly, it seems to me, as "extirpated"; yet there are several recent sight records of Cranes of some species, as follows: three probably seen October 11, 1933, by Henry Otis of Danvers; one in October, 1937, by Charles Safford, the warden at the Audubon reservation on Plum Island; and three mentioned in *Bulletin* No. 34 of the Director of the Massachusetts Division of Ornithology (October 31, 1920) as observed by "a gentleman well acquainted with the species" on October 20, 1920.

With the Rails there is not much to say except that our Rail habitats, due to earlier drying up of our river meadows, have been a good deal reduced. The Virginia Rail, *Rallus l. limicola*, is still common and there is one record as late as January 17 (1920).

Our Gallinules deserve a few words. The Florida species, *Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*, is rather more than a "rare summer resident," as Townsend had it. It is more of a casual summer resident and regular fall migrant in small numbers, having been re-

cently recorded up to November 1. The Coot or Mud-hen, *Fulica a. americana*, although never a common autumn migrant as Dr. Townsend has it, is now somewhat reduced and no doubt is suffering from the same reduction of proper breeding grounds, in common with many of our diving Ducks. It is now a rare autumn straggler on Wenham Lake, very rare of course in spring.*

Of the Phalaropes, it is interesting to mention the great flight of Northern Phalaropes, *Lobipes lobatus*, in August, 1937. The Wilson's Phalarope, *Steganopus tricolor*, seems to be increasing in New England waters. It is more than an "accidental visitor from the West" and might now be termed a rare fall transient, casual in the spring. We have records May 12 to 23, and from August 15 to September 22.

It is hard to know what to say about the Woodcock, *Philohela minor*. The autumn flight covers are now so well known and so thoroughly worked that the birds have little chance after the season opens, but our spring flight seems to be about the same as formerly. The Common or Wilson's Snipe (*capella delicata*), on the other hand has fallen off very much in numbers and continues to decline. Few are now shot with us because the season opens too late. We do not seem to get the early September flight that we did formerly. This is at least partly due to lowered water table, a "grassing-up" of our best fresh-water meadows, with consequent reduction of muddy holes and sloughs and a general increase of bush growth all over the country, with less pasturage. The spring flight is also much smaller.

Most species of our shore birds have shown marked increase since Townsend's Supplement, due undoubtedly to the stopping of summer shooting. On the other hand, drainage of our salt meadows goes forward apace and many favorite salt pools and sloughs are now dry. Mosquito control operations are rapidly changing the flora and fauna of the salt meadows.

The Dowitcher *Limnodromus g. griseus*, is perhaps the species which has responded better than any other. It is now very abundant, and probably back to its status of fifty years ago. We have some new late records to October 14. The Long-billed Dowitcher of the West, *Limnodromus (griseus) scolopaceus*, is now more than an "accidental visitor," perhaps it always was. We should probably now call it a regular late fall visitor, to November 7.

The Knot, *Calidris canutus rufus*, once so greatly reduced, is back to nearly normal numbers, but in our County is seldom seen ex-

* A flock of forty at Clark's Pond this autumn may indicate a strong come-back.

cept in a few favored places such as the easterly tip of Ipswich Beach, a famous gathering place for many waders at high tide. The Purple Sandpiper, *Arquatella maritima*, is still common on outer rocks and reefs in winter such as Egg Rock, Manchester.

Of the "peeps" or small Sandpipers, there is in general a notable increase. Baird's Sandpiper, *Pisobia bairdi*, is still uncommon to rare but seen regularly. The American Dunlin, *Pelidna alpina sakhalina*, might now be put down as abundant, rather than common, in autumn, with a seeming tendency to stay even later, being common in November and once recorded January 25 (1927).

The Western Sandpiper, *Ereunetes maurii*, is rare, but regularly noted each fall. The Sanderling, *Crocethia alba*, like the other common small species, shows a great increase in the past ten or fifteen years and we have some winter dates which Townsend did not have.

The two Godwits have shown little if any response to protective measures. The Marbled, *Limosa fedoa*, is so rare that only one or two are reported for our County each year. There may be a slight increase since Townsend wrote, but not obvious in our region. The Hudsonian Godwit, *Limosa haemastica*, which Townsend never saw, is a rare species everywhere and may even be a vanishing one over its whole range. It may be recorded as still a regular, though rare, autumn migrant.

The two Yellow-legs, Greater and Lesser (*Totanus melanoleucus* and *Totanus flavipes*) have increased enormously, more so than any other of the larger species. It is hard to say which has prospered most through protection, but I am inclined to think that the larger species has benefited most.

The Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa s. solitaria*, is certainly not nearly so common along our Ipswich River as it once was, but is said to be just as plentiful as ever in the Connecticut Valley. The lowered state of our river in late summer may have made a difference.

That fine bird, the Willet, *Catoptrophorus s. semipalmatus*, has increased greatly. It has now been found breeding in Nova Scotia and its numbers in spring in the Carolinas must be seen to be believed. Yet we do not see the bird often in our County, why it is difficult to say. It is still an uncommon transient visitor, both spring and fall.*

* Apparently our fall birds are almost entirely strays from the West *C. s. inornatus*. This is a recent conclusion of Griscom's based on a study of existing specimens. (Eds.)

The Upland Plover, *Bartramia longicauda*, certainly has not now the status assigned to it by Dr. Townsend who in 1920 listed it as a "very rare spring and uncommon autumn transient visitor." It is now rather a rare summer resident and it is doubtful if we ever see any migrants at all. Our resident population of six to ten pairs shows no increase. They occupy the same pasture lots in and near Newburyport and are usually gone by late August. This most attractive species shows no "come-back" anywhere.

With the Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularia*, I seem to have noticed a considerable reduction of breeding pairs, probably merely a local phenomena. They certainly are far less common around our lakes than twenty-five years ago.

Hudsonian Curlew, *Phaeopus hudsonicus*, have responded well to protection but our County is avoided during migration and it cannot be said to be really common, though small groups are beginning to favor our more attractive marshes. We see few on migration and Townsend's "rare spring and uncommon autumn transient visitor" still applies.

All the Plovers have staged gains since Townsend wrote. The Black-bellied, *Squatarola squatarola*, is enormously increased, probably ten times more numerous, and it stays longer in autumn, up to November 24. The Golden Plover, *Pluvialis d. dominica*, once so scarce and accounted "rare in our County" by Townsend, has increased and is now of regular occurrence each fall in small numbers.

Even in 1920 the Killdeer, *Oxyechus v. vociferus*, was becoming a common resident. Since then it has gained even more ground and is now a common resident, breeding in many favorable locations. Large flocks are seen about the bare shores of Wenham Lake into November, probably local birds.

The Ring-neck Plover, *Charadrius semipalmata* or Semipalmated Plover, is now seen in great numbers and is abundant in spring, contrary to Townsend's "not common in spring." The Piping Plover, *Charadrius melodus*, on the other hand, has increased only very slowly from the low point which Dr. Townsend mentions about 1905. It is not yet really abundant and may never be, as our beaches become more and more "humanized," but a few pairs nest on all quiet, sandy places. The Ruddy Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres morinella*, has increased along with all the commoner small species. There is one additional record for Wilson's Plover, *Pagolla w. wilsonia*, a bird seen on May 15, 1932, by a party of observers.

Our Bob-whites, *Colinus v. virginianus*, are practically gone. All attempts to save them have failed and the many which I bred and released at Wenham in 1915 and 1916 and in the early thirties vanished within a few months, although a few coveys wintered successfully. As Townsend says, the species never recovered from the winter of 1903–1904. It has always been my theory that introductions of southern and Mexican birds after this date sealed the doom of the old, hardier strain of New England Bob-whites—this, coupled with greatly reduced agricultural operations, better roads, more cars and an army of guns.

It is difficult to say what will be the future of our Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa umbellus*. It reached a low ebb in one of its cycles in 1936 and 1937, yet there is no indication that it will be wiped out. Even in 1937 there were places in our County where Grouse were quite numerous—fully as much so as in little-shot territory to the north of us.

The Mourning Dove, *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*, from being a “rare summer resident” is now a common and regular breeder in increasing numbers. It also stays later and we have some winter records. These birds spent almost one entire winter at Wenham on my place, during a warm period.

With the Vultures there are two more records of the Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*, making five in all; and six more for the Black Vulture, *Coragyps a. atratus*. Looking back very many years, I am almost positive that when a boy at Nahant I came upon a Black Vulture at close range—say about 1886.

In general all the Hawks have fallen off greatly in numbers, even since 1920, due to the strange belief among “one-gallus” gunners (and some two-gallus ones) that by killing off all the Hawks they can restore game species. The Marsh Hawk, *Circus hudsonius*, is now a rather rare breeding bird, though common enough on migration. It is no longer a “common summer resident.” The Sharp-shinned, *Accipiter v. velox*, species is perhaps fewer and the Cooper’s or *Accipiter cooperi* has fallen off like all others. It is now a rare nesting species and not really common on migration.

The Goshawk, *Astur a. atricapillus*, seen usually as a periodic fall and winter visitor with us, paid us its last great destructive visit in 1926 and has only appeared in small numbers since then.

The Red-tailed, *Buteo b. borealis*, once a “very rare summer resident” can now no longer be recorded as a summer resident at all, I believe, and is even very uncommon on migration. The

Red-shouldered, *Buteo l. lineatus*, our most ornamental bird of prey, is slowly decreasing, both as a breeding bird and as a migrant, and its loss is felt by all bird lovers. The other Hawks, Broad-winged, *Buteo p. platypterus* and Rough-legged, *Buteo lagopus sancti-johannis*, show no special change.

Both Eagles are of course still rare, but the Golden, *Aquila chrysaëtos canadensis*, seems to be identified by our binocular enthusiasts more often than it used to be, especially in late fall and winter in the Merrimac Valley. The Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, is certainly less common than in 1920 when Townsend recorded it as "not uncommon at all seasons." It is now rare in summer but a regular, though scarce, mid-winter visitor, especially in the Merrimac Valley above the chain bridge. The Southern Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus l. leucocephalus*, is probably much more rare than the Northern form, *alascanus*.

The Duck Hawk, *Falco peregrinus anatum*, is said to be holding its own and about the same as in 1920, but the Pigeon Hawk, *Falco c. columbarius*, is scarcely a "common transient visitor." It is an uncommon visitor. The Sparrow Hawk, *Falco s. sparverius*, although still very common on migration, has not increased as a breeding bird. There are more in and about our cities than there used to be.

Ospreys, *Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*, it seems to me, are a little less plentiful on fall migration than they were once. Occasionally a lone bird will spend a good part of the summer with us, as happened recently at Wenham. It is curious that we have no breeding records in this part of our state.

Most of the Owls have failed to hold their own. The Long-eared, *Asio wilsonianus*, shows a marked decrease at all seasons and there are no recent definite breeding records. The Short-eared, *Asio f. flammeus*, is now a rare bird. Townsend noted a decrease between his first and second County lists and this has continued.

The Barred Owl, *Strix v. varia*, for some reason is, and always has been, much scarcer than the Great Horned Owl, *Bubo v. virginianus*. It may be set down as a rare permanent resident, not common at any time. The Saw-whet or Acadian Owl, *Cryptoglaux a. acadica*, is probably less rare than formerly. It may breed, although its nest has not yet been found.

Both the Screech Owl, *Otus a. asio*, and the Great Horned are about the same, as near as we can tell. It is rather remarkable that our largest Owl (except the very rare Great Gray Owl, *Scotiaptex*

n. nebulosa) should still be common, but it has probably responded, like the Pileated Woodpecker, *Geophloeus pileatus abieticola*, to the increasing acreage of forest. In the winter of 1917-1918 there was an influx of birds from further north, representing some of the northern races.

There is probably no change to be recorded with our Snowy Owl visitors (*Nyctea nyctea*). They are still common at times. The winter of 1926-1927 produced an astonishing number and they were common in the autumn of 1937.

There is less to record, of course, about the less obvious species, those that we cannot "count," either because they are too numerous, or too scarce and secluded in their behavior. Therefore only the striking changes will be entered here, those in fact being the only ones that are safe to generalize about.

The Northern Pileated Woodpecker is certainly coming back, extending its range southward and eastward from New Hampshire and western Massachusetts. It is now more than an "accidental visitor" and reaches the status of a rare visitor or resident. It must certainly breed with us, as there are numerous records since 1931, and in 1934 a fine bird spent the entire autumn on the shores of Wenham Lake, close to my house.

The Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, continues to be a very rare bird, merely accidental now. It can certainly not be called a "rare summer resident," though it has nested.

One of the most remarkable changes in our air fauna is the addition of the Arkansas Kingbird, *Tyrannus verticalis*, to our list. Unrecorded by Dr. Townsend, it is now an irregular fall visitor, September 3 to November 20, and there are many records during the past fifteen years.

Say's Phoebe, *Sayornis s. saya*, is also a new County bird, represented by a specimen in the Peabody Museum, taken October 13, 1930.

The Canada Jay, *Perisoreus c. canadensis*, is, perhaps, more than an accidental visitor, as there are at least three more recent credible sight records besides the early 1878 record mentioned by Townsend.

Dr. Townsend does not mention any decrease in the Bobolink, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, but with continued loss of our ploughed land, and with a gradual "pauperization" of our meadows due to continual hay cutting without adequate fertilization, this bird has gone down greatly. They prefer the rich grass lands where the

cover is thick and high. It is possible that they are now holding their own after a great reduction in the past twenty-five years.

Another noticeable change is seen in the present-day rarity of the Orchard Oriole, *Icterus spurius*. It is probably no longer a local resident and in recent years we have only a few scattered spring records. I have never seen it in our County myself.

The Red Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra*, represented by the races *pusilla* and *neogaea* (this latter the Newfoundland race) is not apparently as common lately, appearing only once in every four or five years. The White-winged species, *Loxia leucoptera*, is with us irregularly, the same as always.

The Vesper Sparrow, *Pooecetes g. gramineus*, is thought not to be as common as formerly and to be reduced by fifty per cent from its numbers of fifteen or twenty years ago. Among the other Sparrows the Labrador Savannah Sparrow, *Passerculus sandwichensis labradorius*, is represented by specimens; the Henslow's Sparrow, *Passer-herbulus h. henslowi*, is practically gone from our County, with but two records for fifteen years. We now have a specimen of Shufeldt's Junco, *Junco oreganus shufeldti*, represented by a specimen in the Peabody Museum, taken June 30, 1931.

Among the Swallows there are some significant changes. There are few records for the Purple Martin, *Progne s. subis*, which is now a very rare transient. Both the Cliff and the Barn Swallows (*Petrochelidon a. albifrons* and *Hirundo erythrogaster*) continue to steadily decrease. My own colony of the last is greatly diminished and in 1937 many of the adult birds vanished during the nesting season, leaving eggs deserted or young starving. Is it possible that roadside spraying may have taken a toll on these birds? Killing of Swallows by spraying has recently been reported in another place.

The same story goes for the Tree Swallow, *Iridoprocne bicolor*, and the Bank Swallow, *Riparia r. riparia*. The latter is now an uncommon summer resident rather than a "common summer resident" as recorded in Townsend's Supplement.

On the other hand, the Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis*, is not now as rare as fifteen years ago. A pair was collected by Emilio and there are many sight and several breeding records in the last ten years. It is now a regular summer resident, the only one of the Swallows which seems to be increasing with us.

Coming to the Vireos, the Warbling Vireo, *Vireo g. gilvus*, is now very uncommon and decreasing instead of being a "common

summer resident." The Yellow-throated, *Vireo flavifrons*, is only a rare and local summer resident, no longer common; while the White-eyed Vireo, *Vireo g. griseus*, is only a casual straggler.

There are not many decided changes among the Warblers that can be noted with certainty. Each year, of course, brings local or seasonal variations in numbers. Dates of occurrence have been greatly extended for most species.

The Orange-crowned, *Vermivora c. celata*, is now more of a regular fall migrant, rather than a "very rare transient," with records from late September to January. The Tennessee Warbler, *Vermivora peregrina*, is an uncommon spring and very rare fall migrant and no longer thought to be a "common transient visitor." The Palm Warbler, *Dendroica p. palmarum*, is no longer "rare," and late autumn and even winter dates are on record.

It is thought that the Water-thrush, *Seiurus n. noveboracensis*, may now be a very rare summer resident—at least it has been present in June and July. The Yellow-breasted Chat, *Icteria v. virens*, has faded out almost completely and no longer breeds regularly in our County, so far as known. It was once a not uncommon summer resident.

The story of the Ring-necked Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus torquatus*, is so well known as scarcely to deserve notice. Reaching a peak of abundance about 1910, it has, with few interruptions, steadily decreased until it is now quite uncommon and of slight utility as a game species. The wholesale planting of artificially incubated young, raised in confined quarters, has apparently ended by producing a stock that is not able to maintain itself in the wild. We see very few large broods raised to maturity. Pheasant food is also scarcer than it used to be, due to decreased cultivation.

The Starling, *Sturnus v. vulgaris*, has, we hope, reached its peak of abundance and begun to decline, although still far too numerous.

Dr. Townsend noted a decrease in the English Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*, in 1920. Since then the decline has been rapid and the bird is almost rare now in many rural districts of our County.

THE BENSON EXHIBIT

DAVID L. GARRISON

FROM November 15 to December 15 there occurred an event that did honor to the Massachusetts tradition. The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston exhibited a collection of the works of two distinguished local artists, Frank W. Benson and Edmund C. Tarbell. The extensiveness of the exhibit was remarkable and also its variety, especially in Benson's work—which alone concerns us here. He showed portraits, interiors, landscapes, and wildfowl pictures, in oils, water colors, wash drawings, and in the form of etchings—an absorbing array.

The most impressive thing about this exhibit was the apparent pleasure the artist took in each painting or etching he made. He must have delighted in the work and felt satisfaction from start to finish. Today when artistic *isms* claim attention on grounds of aimless novelty or enigmatic "intellectual" content, it is a relief to turn to something competent and genuine, to find enthusiasm and spontaneous energy expressing high artistic perception through able craftsmanship. Also, the subjects Mr. Benson chooses and depicts are a specific antidote for the ills of our civilization. Out of the pushing city and "improved" marshland, they take you to a realm where forces greater than man unquestionably prevail. There is space. There is open sky. And through it the wings of birds beat out a necessary rhythm. There is a touch of the wilderness in every American's blood; what one of us does not respond to the sight of wildfowl free in the heavens, the symbol of our hereditary elbow room?

The pictures appeal from so many points of view that admirers can hardly agree on their preferences. Mr. Benson used several techniques and experimented with various styles within them, as well as covering a wide range of subjects. This diversity comes naturally from his own tremendous vitality and varied interests; but it also seems to reflect, in part, influences from the artistic world about him. During his early days there was arising in France a dynamic group of painters, the "Impressionists," interested in color, sunlight, and rapid ways of recording what they saw. These factors have long been among Mr. Benson's interests, especially the representation of sunlit scenes, which he paints with more amazing skill year by year. Another "influence" discerned by some in Benson's work is the Oriental interest in pure design, rhythmic patterns of dark against light, for instance, as formed by the wings

of ducks flying in open skies. Chinese artists also use blank areas most effectively, to emphasize, by contrast, concentrated points of motion. And they are masters of a capacity rare in modern art: the use of varying *qualities of line* to express the qualities of different materials. Massachusetts is rich in Oriental treasure, gathered by sagacious traders of its sea-going generations. Whether influenced or not by such objects about him, Benson's work embodies some of their best characteristics. His etching expresses with uncanny facility the texture of materials: trees, grasses, water, clouds, and feathers. In every bird the wing pinions, even, are differentiated in texture from the contour plumage; while the outlines of head, neck, and body show at once the bird's preoccupation and objective. Mr. Benson's sense of design is equally remarkable, as he balances a scattered flock across the sky or sets a lone figure in a wild expanse.

All these elements combine into an art distinctively individual: superb drawing and design, beautiful color and sense of light. Added to these fundamentals he has sense of motion and spaciousness; and finally, to top it off (from the sportsman's and ornithologist's point of view) a great gift of representing wild birds. His birds are alive, natural, at home, and in the very attitudes and formations most cherished by field observers.

Four names among bird painters (that I happen to know of) stand out: Liljefors, Fuertes, Audubon, and Benson. The great Swedish artist paints on a grand scale, emphasizing the scene in which birds take an integral part. Fuertes chose the less pretentious, "mere illustrator's" approach, but through it interested thousands of people in the beauty of wild species. Audubon reached great heights at best, but with too prolific production for uniform success. Almost everyone *reacts* either for or against his pictures, but by no means all are ideal for constant companionship. Like Liljefors, Benson puts his birds in living environments; but the scale of his pictures is less pretentious and the point of view less dramatic. As a painter of vivid scenes momentarily witnessed and impressed on the mind, Benson is almost a polar opposite to Fuertes with his meticulous technique. Still Fuertes and Benson are similar in knowing thoroughly the birds they portray. Like Audubon, Benson builds the interest of his pictures on underlying patterns of pure design. But whereas Audubon glorified birds in wonderful detail against backgrounds that were incidental, Benson recreates whole scenes, pieces of visual reality. You might take as a definition of art, *things* with which it is beneficial

to associate. On this solid basis, Mr. Benson's pictures stand high; on the average, I suspect, higher than Audubon's.

From the beginning Benson's bird paintings and etchings have appealed to sportsmen and naturalists. The future will steadily widen the circle of the admirers of his art. With a rare enthusiasm for life, he has sought to communicate the profound pleasure of his experience to others—and has succeeded.



THE IPSWICH RIVER TRIPS

ERNEST S. DODGE

FOR thirty-two years, on, or shortly after, the middle of May, first an unorganized group and later the members and guests of the Essex County Ornithological Club have dipped paddles in the waters of the Ipswich River, and for two days followed its beautiful and at time tortuous course between gently sloping hills, steep banks, through lush green marshes, woodlands, farms and orchards. Year after year more than a score of men look forward to the "River Trip" and enthusiasm and numbers do not diminish. Nor should they, for this trip not only affords an excellent opportunity for observing bird life but also for two days and a night one lives beneath the sky in the midst of some of our most lovely New England countryside. It is a great relaxation to the nerves of the tired, harassed, indoor worker to drift along downstream in a leisurely way, making occasional side excursions into the fields and woods, watching the Warblers flitting about, taking an incidental swim if it is warm enough, and then, on isolated Pine Island, enjoying food cooked in the open, singing, pleasant talk and a pipe with companions before "rolling in." If the night is clear and still the occasional calls of Owls, or Rails on the marshes, are likely to be heard. If rainy, as it sometimes is, the sound of the storm on the tent roof has a certain lulling effect and in any case a sense of well being and peace with the world is infused. One is inclined to feel that these factors as well as an interest in birds has contributed greatly to the trips' yearly success.

Suppose we go back away into the misty past and discover, if we can, just what led up to this long-continued annual custom.

Sometime in the late nineties Ralph Lawson acquired an interest in the study of birds. In the course of human events his family domicile came within stone's throw of that of Gilbert Emilio. The inevitable result was a transfer of that interest to the slightly older boy, who had quite naturally become a playmate.

A year or two passed and then Emilio put practically all his savings into the purchase of a second-hand canoe. This craft was taken to Jaffery, New Hampshire, for the first summer, and remained there at least through one winter, but in the fall of 1902 it was located on the Ipswich River at Danvers Center, just above the bridge near the present Bruley-Kimball camp.

Two years pass, and two things occur. The Lawson family moves again this time to within shouting distance of the domicile of one

John L. d'Este, who presently becomes inoculated with the ornithological germ. And secondly, Lawson acquires a canoe, which he proceeds to "park" below the swimming hole below Howe's Station, on the Ipswich River.

Now, with Lawson and Emilio equipped with canoes on the Ipswich River, the stage seems all set. But it may be interesting to go back and find, if we can, just when these boys first made contact with the river they were to traverse so faithfully for so many years. Lawson's records were lost in the Salem fire of 1914, but we find in Emilio's under June 8, 1901, "Ipswich River. . ." and a list of forty-two species. It was their first River Trip and was made by row-boat, from Goodhue's boat house in Ipswich up river to the swift water below Norwood's dam and return. Plans had been made to make this trip on May 11, and again May 18, but bad weather intervened.

Again we turn to Emilio's notes to pick up another essential thread of our story. Under date of May 15, 1902 we read "M. is a crackerjack. His ears are like a woodchucks and he knows, too. Eyes are not so good as mine. He knows just where he can put his hand on a bird. He promised me Prairie Warbler, Chats, White-eyed Vireo, and Golden-winged Warbler and he found everyone easily."

The very next day, 4.30 to 7.00 A.M. again, it was "Lawson, Mackintosh and I." So here we have the boys afield with "Dick" Mackintosh, probably for the first time. "Dick" was then about thirty-five years old, working in Peabody, from 7.00 A.M. probably until 6.00 P.M. but willing to roll out two days in succession at about 3.00 A.M., Standard Time, to take two kids, half his age on a bird hunt. "Dick" ceased his earthly labors January 16, 1939 and few will miss him more than those two boys. The three were together for the last time at the Annual Meeting of this Club in December, 1938. Lawson was in the chair as President, because Mackintosh had refused, two years before, to accept a nomination for the office he so richly deserved.

Let us return to the river and the canoes. The spring of 1903 saw the first Ipswich River Trip in somewhat the form we now know it. The personnel was rather scanty, just two young fellows not yet out of high school. And the itinerary was a little different, they didn't stop at Willowdale and take an automobile or a bus and a train home. They made two carries and paddled right down to Ipswich, then turned right round and paddled home again.

This strenuous procedure was not always followed in ensuing

trips by various combinations of Lawson, d'Este and Emilio, but in any event they searched the river valley in mid-May—and at other times—for several years.

During this time Mackintosh had joined forces with others of his age, and at the height of the spring migration was accustomed to make a trip by foot and carriage in the central part of the state, a supposedly more favorable place.

To make a long story short and without recourse to precise data, it eventually developed that the Ipswich River Valley was producing the greater variety of birds in mid-May. The result was that Mackintosh brought most of his crowd to the river and with the three youngsters embarked, in 1907, on the first official River Trip.

As is more or less well known, from the group which had become associated in ten successive River Trips, this Club was formed in 1916.

A glance, for just a moment, at the precise data still extant reveals that ninety-one species were observed, in all, on the pre-official River Trips. No bird subsequently recorded on all the thirty-two official lists was missed, and two which have not ever been included in that long series were, apparently, observed. These are the Red-tailed Hawk and the Grasshopper Sparrow. There is no excuse for a misidentification of the Hawk and it appears from the records that the boys had previous acquaintance with the Sparrow, so it is reasonable to assume they were correct in both cases.

While the accompanying charts sort of speak for themselves it may not be amiss to call attention to a few things.

The Pheasant was not “counted” until 1917 so its absence prior thereto is apparent rather than real. A similar condition prevails with the Rock Dove and the English Sparrow.

With the Hairy Woodpecker, however, neither on the pre-official nor official trips until 1912 was the species detected and from then on, strangely enough, it has never been missed.

There is a parallel in the case of the Crested Flycatcher which did not appear at all until 1918, and of course the Starling.

The House Wren is in much the same category but differs from the others cited in that it occurs on the pre-official list and then for years is not again recorded.

Interestingly enough, the reverse, that is a case where a species once regularly found has been consistently missed in later years, does not appear.

For those of an analytical turn of mind it may be pointed out

further, that there is a correlation between the number of species observed and the number of observers making a trip. But there seems to be no consistent advantage in the particular date, as the early ones seem as prolific as the ones nearly a week later in the month.

On the long series of official trips one hundred and eighty species and sub-species of birds have been observed. The average number per trip has been ninety-six though since 1921, it is one hundred and six. Two hundred and four different men (and boys) have participated. Their names and the years of their participation are tabulated beyond. Only Lawson has made every trip with Mackintosh, Porter and W. H. Ropes not too far behind. But the details are there for your inspection and we hope the data presented are correct. Assembling them has not been too simple a task.

In conclusion, a few words about the last two trips, 1937 and 1938, details of which have not been published heretofore.

The 1937 trip was held on May 15 and 16. It was cold and the foliage was below normal in development. A heavy rain fell the entire night at Bruley's camp and continued until 8.00 o'clock the morning of the fifteenth. The rain complicated the early part of the day because the canoes at the Paper Mills were sent back to Howe's Station and it became necessary to walk back after them, wait at Howe's until 2.00 o'clock for the main party and carry on from there. The regular encampment was made on Pine Island. The sixteenth was a clear sunny day and the usual routine was followed to Willowdale, Clark's Pond, Little Neck and back to Ipswich by motor boat.

The thirty-second trip was held on May 21 and 22, 1938. A group of seven spent Friday night at Bruley's camp. Saturday there was a brisk breeze with some fair-weather clouds, both diminishing until at sunset it was fairly quiet and cloudless. There were heavy showers from 6.00 to 9.00 A.M. Sunday and an all day east wind followed by dense fog after 6.00 P.M. There was plenty of sun, however, from 10.00 A.M. on. In general, the weather was nearly perfect. The mosquitoes were bothersome for only a short time Saturday evening. The foliage was well ahead of normal due to the exceptionally early spring, and the river well over the banks so that frequent cuts through the long marsh grass were possible.

The party list was one hundred and fourteen. A new bird for the trips was the Olive-sided Flycatcher. There were probably as

many as five observed. Two other new birds were the Least Bittern and the Gallinule. In general purely migrant species of land birds were almost entirely missing. There were large numbers seen or heard of the common summer residents. Especially common were the Prairie Marsh Wrens and Chimney Swifts. On the other hand there was seen but one, or a very few, of twenty-two species.



[illegible]

Common Tern	×		×	×	×	×				×	×	×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	×
Roseate Tern	×	×	×	×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Rock Dove			×	×		×		×		×	×	×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	×
Mourning Dove			×	×		×				×	×	×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				×		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×		×	×	×
Black-billed Cuckoo	×			×	×	×		×		×	×	×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	×
Screech Owl	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Great Horned Owl	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Barred Owl	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Whip-poor-will	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Nighthawk	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Chimney Swift	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Belted Kingfisher	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Flicker	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Hairy Woodpecker	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Downy Woodpecker	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Eastern Kingbird	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Crested Flycatcher	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Phoebe	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Alder Flycatcher	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Least Flycatcher	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	
Wood Pewee	×			×		×				×		×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×			×	

Hermit Thrush	X	X	X	X				X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Olive-backed Thrush	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Veery		X	X	X			X		X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Bluebird	X		X	X					X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Golden-crowned Kinglet	X	X	X	X				X	X				X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	X	X	X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
American Pipit	X		X	X				X	X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Cedar Waxwing	X	X	X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Starling	X		X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
White-eyed Vireo	X		X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Yellow-throated Vireo	X	X	X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Blue-headed Vireo	X		X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Red-eyed Vireo	X	X	X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Warbling Vireo		X	X	X					X					X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Black and White Warbler	X	X	X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Golden-winged Warbler	X	X	X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Tennessee Warbler			X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Nashville Warbler	X	X	X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Parula Warbler	X	X	X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Yellow Warbler	X	X	X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Magnolia Warbler	X		X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Cape May Warbler			X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Blk.-tht. Blue Warbler	X		X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Myrtle Warbler	X		X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X
Blk.-tht. Green Warbler	X		X	X					X				X	X	X				X	X				X	X			X	X

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Year	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
May dates	18	16	15	21	20	18	17	16	15	20	19	18	17	22	14	20	19	17	16	15	14	19	18	17	16	21	20	19	18	16	15	21
Teel, George M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	×	×	×	—	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	
Teel, George M., Jr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	—
Teel, Lawrence H.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thacher, Louis A., Jr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Townsend, Dr. Charles W.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	—	—	—	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Townsend, Charles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tucker, W. Guy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vaughn, Albert	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	×	—	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Walcott, Judge Robert	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward, Hugh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	—
Wells, Dr. F. Lyman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	×	×	×	—	×	—	—	×	×	×	×	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weston, Stephen P.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	—	—
White, Francis B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitney, Byam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilkins, Raymond H.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilkins, W. B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilson, Frank H.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilson, Frank H., Jr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wood, George	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	12	20	11	9	12	12	16	18	31	34	31	33	37	31	45	41	40	31	37	31	31	31	25	37	27	39	29	28	36	32	23	27

FIFTEEN CHRISTMAS CENSUSES IN DANVERS

S. G. EMILIO

FROM 1922 to 1938 inclusive, I have made fifteen reasonably comparable Christmas Censuses. The first five of them were detailed at some length in the *Bulletin* of this Club for 1926, but I am presenting the data again in connection with that of the ensuing ten counts.

As I remarked twelve years ago, to obtain strictly comparable data one may introduce only a single variable at a time, but it is often not possible to attain that ideal. Even if the same person traversed exactly the same path each year on the same date in December, under identical weather conditions—the impossibility of which is obvious—even so, the more or less devastating effects of time, in the lapse of fifteen or twenty years, on the observer himself would introduce a variable. Similarly, with the passage of time there are bound to be at least minor changes in the nature of the terrain itself.

There have been introduced even more variables than above indicated. Precisely the same path has not been followed each year. One of three different companions has accompanied me, though not on every trip, for I have been alone several times. Furthermore, in the last ten or eleven years an automobile has been used to greater or less extent, and the dates of the trips have varied from December 18 to January 3, with the average December 26, from which date the average deviation has been three days only. No record has been kept of the distances covered on foot or by auto but it is my impression they too have varied more or less widely from year to year. It is not at all clear, even if we knew the extent of these variations, that we would know how to evaluate them in terms of the species and numbers of birds seen or missed. So, for all practical purposes, we simply ignore this hair splitting. The basic facts are that approximately the same territory has been covered in much the same manner year after year at about the same late December date by the same observer. Furthermore this territory is not a circle with a diameter of fifteen miles but an area slightly over three miles long by less than two wide. Even that relatively small expanse cannot be thoroughly searched by a one- or two-man party in the short days of December—or the long ones of June. Nevertheless, as stated in the opening sentence, the data obtained are “reasonably comparable.”

Asylum Hill in Danvers is the center of the area involved. This

is an open farming country, typical of the northeastern corner of the state, and rather heavily populated for territory so designated. Evergreen and deciduous woods of relatively young growth are included as well as swamps and rolling hills.

The sequence of species in the following table is the approximate order of their abundance, or rarity. The abundance of a given species I have considered to be a function not only of the total number of individuals observed but also of its regularity of occurrence. So, to illustrate, I have ranked the Downy Woodpecker with only fifty-six individuals observed, ahead of the Flicker, of which we have seen seventy. This is done because the Downy has been found every year but the Flicker has been completely missed on two of the fifteen trips. And again, the Flicker outranks the Robin, in my opinion, although we have actually seen more than three times as many of the latter, for the reason that we never laid eyes on a Robin in nine out of the fifteen censuses.

It is obvious that by far the commonest bird in the area is the Starling. This is largely because of the presence of a large piggery in the northwestern end of the region, which was maintained through 1932, and the abrupt drop in both Starlings and Crows in the 1933 count is attributable to the abandonment of that extensive feeding place.

There is another rather striking characteristic of the 1933 list—it is very much longer than in any previous or subsequent year. It is not clear that the sudden drop in the numbers of the two black scavengers at the head of the list had anything to do with the great increase in the number of other species present, but that the increase occurred is at least suggestive. It seems to apply also to the abundance of the individual species—there were many more Tree Sparrows and Juncos, and the maximum number of Downy Woodpeckers for the entire series of counts.

The apparent tendency of the Myrtle Warbler to be present every other year also requires an explanation which I am unable to give.

Ring-necked Pheasants have not entirely faded from the local picture but they seem to be on the way out. It will be noted that none are recorded since 1929.

At the end of the first five years, ten species had been observed every year; now, that total has dwindled to four. To some extent at least that is due to the accident of observation, or perhaps non-observation would be better. For, in 1931 no English Spar-

rows were recorded yet beyond a shadow of a doubt some were present that winter.

The “most consistently common bird” still seems to be the Chickadee, as in 1926.

Twelve years ago I suggested that the Sparrow counts seemed to indicate short cycles of abundance. And now, it is interesting to observe the peaks of abundance shown by the Tree Sparrow in 1924, 1927, 1930, 1933, and a similar, but less marked, series for the Junco.

Twenty species have been added to the total list since the compilation in 1926, and of these eleven have only been seen once. Both this increase and the decline in the number to be recorded every year were anticipated, but the average number of species observed has shown no trend away from the figure established at the end of the first five years, namely, twenty.

Year	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
Starling	6	50	300	200	200	350	700	162	300	400	990	42	275	35	200
Crow	7	45	100	150	200	67	80	62	75	20	260	17	25	15	12
Tree Sparrow	45	5	100	60	6	160	10	89	115	3	38	180	106	2	11
English Sparrow	10	75	75	60	30	30	15	20	60	—	60	10	6	50	4
Chickadee	10	24	30	30	40	48	17	21	33	22	32	54	33	68	16
Junco	1	10	25	25	6	28	3	25	47	16	28	54	2	—	2
Blue Jay	10	8	2	4	17	11	8	13	10	—	15	17	16	21	8
Goldfinch	—	1	—	28	2	15	2	360	27	23	25	35	4	—	8
Horned Lark	—	30	—	30	25	56	50	33	—	35	1	—	1	30	1
Golden-cr. Kinglet	16	6	2	2	17	9	4	17	3	3	—	4	7	8	16
Downy Woodpecker	1	2	2	5	3	6	5	3	4	1	6	9	5	1	3
Flicker	2	1	5	5	6	7	1	1	2	—	9	11	11	9	—
Robin	3	—	2	5	50	—	4	—	—	—	—	175	—	—	—
Brown Creeper	2	—	1	2	2	6	5	4	—	3	3	4	1	3	7
Myrtle Warbler	—	—	6	4	—	4	—	3	—	7	—	23	—	10	15
Song Sparrow	1	1	14	2	—	6	2	—	3	2	5	3	8	3	5
White-br. Nuthatch	—	1	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	2	—	7	—	5	2
Hairy Woodpecker	—	—	1	2	1	2	2	—	1	—	1	6	1	1	2
Snow Bunting	38	—	—	—	1	—	—	200	—	—	—	75	—	—	—
Herring Gull	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	2	—	—	2	—	1	—	125
Cedar Waxwing	—	—	10	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—

Year	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1938
Meadowlark	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	9	—	5	5	—	—	—
Pheasant	2	1	2	—	1	9	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-br. Nuthatch	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	—	—	—
Black Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Purple Finch	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Northern Shrike	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Swamp Sparrow	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Common Redpoll	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	115	—
Pine Grosbeak	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	74	—	—	—	28	—	—	—
Pine Siskin	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Sparrow Hawk	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
White-tht. Sparrow	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Evening Grosbeak	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	70	—	—	—
Redwing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35
Mourning Dove	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ruffed Grouse	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Cowbird	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-sh. Hawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Black-backed Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Green-winged Teal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goshawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Sharp-sh. Hawk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Black Gyrfalcon	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia Rail	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Wilson's Snipe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Screech Owl	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Winter Wren	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prairie Marsh Wren	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orange-cr. Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
W. Palm Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronzed Grackle	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hoary Redpoll	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Fox Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Number of Species	17	17	22	22	19	23	23	22	18	16	17	30	19	23	20

OWL NOTES

WESLEY T. PERKINS

Great Horned Owl

1936

DECEMBER 29, Ipswich Sand Dunes: I was a few steps ahead of my son Whitney when he stopped me with a quiet exclamation. Looking in the direction he indicated I saw a very large bird perched in a pitch pine tree about thirty feet from where we stood. Although neither of us had seen one in the woods before, we knew at once that it was a Great Horned Owl.

As we watched the Owl it would gaze at us with large yellow eyes and then turning its head as if on a pivot would look off in another direction. Individuals from a flock of Chickadees drifting through the woods came within two or three feet of the Owl. They did not seem aware of the Owl's presence, but once or twice the latter tipped its head to look at the little intruders.

After watching the Owl for several minutes we decided to see how near we could approach, but we had hardly taken a step before it flew off among the trees. The time was 11.15 A.M., and a bright sun was shining.

1937

February 16, Wingaersheek Woods: A large brown Owl, probably disturbed by my approach, flew from a tree and, crossing an open space, disappeared among the trees on a hillside. I circled back through the woods and approached the spot where the Owl had disappeared at right angles to the line of his flight. As my head appeared over a ridge, two Owls flew away into the woods. They gave an impression of considerable bulk, and this, with the buffy-brown coloration, led me to list them as Great Horned Owls.

When in the same woods, on March 2, I had a glimpse of a large owl-like bird flying away high among the trees. It was probably one of these Owls.

1938

Two Great Horned Owls' nests were discovered in April. The first was found at Hooper Farm, on the sixth. Some Crows were making a clamor just in from the edge of the woods opposite the old farm house. Soon an Owl hooted once, and a minute or two later a Great Horned Owl flew from the woods carrying a large, bloody object in its talons, and alighted in a maple tree. Presently it flew to a pine in the edge of the woods and settled on a nest that

had previously escaped my notice. Although seeing me the moment I moved to get a better position, the Owl stayed on the nest and watched through round, unblinking eyes until the intruder had left the vicinity.

On the eleventh two Owlets could be seen on the nest. There was considerable difference in size. On the thirteenth a parent bird was present and but one Owlet was sufficiently exposed to be observed. The nest was visited twice on April 20. The first time no parent bird was in sight, the two young Owls were of considerable size and showed "horns." Upon returning to the nest an hour or two later I found that one of the parent birds had returned. There was barely room for the three occupants. Mrs. Perkins, Whitney and I visited the nest on May 1. There was no sign of the parent bird, but one large Owlet was still there. When the area was next visited some three weeks later, the nest was empty.

The second nest was discovered on Castle Hill, on April 10. Whitney and I were watching some Kinglets, when we saw a Great Horned Owl in a pine tree nearby. A moment later we noticed the upright ears and head of its mate, protruding above a nest well up in another tree. A parent bird was on the nest when I visited the hill again on April 16. Ten days later I observed an adult Owl in a tree near the nest. It soon flew toward the little pond at the foot of the hill where the sound of much cawing indicated that it had been discovered by some Crows. There was a motionless object protruding above the rim of the nest, but I could not make out whether it was an Owlet or the body of some animal.

The Owls on Castle Hill did not seem as wild as those at Hooper Farm, possibly because the former were accustomed to seeing the Crane estate workmen about.

May 4: As I was looking down into an opening from a wooded slope in the Conomo woods, a Great Horned Owl flew from the ground and perched for a moment on the limb of a dead tree. We eyed each other briefly, when the Owl flew quietly away into the woods.

October 26: A group of excited Crows calling "Hawk" or "Owl" in the Conomo woods led me to the vicinity of the spot on which they had been focusing their attention. Although the Crows left at my approach, it did not take long to find a tree beneath which were indications that birds had roosted above. Stepping back for a better view of the upper part of this tree, I was startled by the sound of heavy wings against branches and looked just in time to see the bulky form of a Great Horned Owl leave an adjoining tree

and disappear in the woods. A moment later another Owl, unseen before it flew, made off in the opposite direction.

Snowy Owl

1937

November 25: Investigating a white object across a field by the Plum Island Road, Whitney and I discovered it to be a Snowy Owl perched on a small pile of brush. It permitted us to get quite near before flying leisurely to a meadow beyond the field. We approached again, and this time the Owl went farther away and disappeared from view.

About an hour later we saw the same, or another, Snowy Owl, on a fence post near the road that connects Route 1A to the Plum Island Road. We watched it for a few minutes and then left it undisturbed.

In both of these cases the object of our observation did not look like an Owl. The one on the brush pile appeared to be a patch of snow, while our attention was first called to the fence post by what appeared like a large white rag.

1938

February 2, Plum Island: On my way to the south end of the island I saw a Snowy Owl standing on one of the sanctuary sign posts out on the marsh. It let me come quite near before leaving its perch to fly leisurely along the course of a tidal stream. The Owl finally came to rest on a staddle, where I left it upon resuming my walk.

Barred Owl

1936

The hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo—hoo-hoo-hoo-hooach of the Barred Owl was heard from camp at Hancock, New Hampshire, on several occasions during August. None were identified during the year although the large bird, flushed from a maple beside the wood road from the Stoddard road to the shoulder of Bald Mountain, was possibly this Owl.

1937

The call of a Barred Owl was heard from camp on several occasions again this year.

1938

A pair of Barred Owls were found nesting in the Boxford woods, and one or the other was observed on the several occasions

that the nest was visited, the dates ranging from March 22 to May 1. On the first date two Owls were observed, one of them flying from the immediate vicinity where the nest was actually discovered five days later. A few feathers clinging to the edge of a cavity about thirty feet up in a dead tree revealed its location, although the opening seemed too small to admit an Owl. However, when sticks were thrown at the cavity, an adult Barred Owl emerged and flew off into the woods.

The nest must have been well below the opening because on one of the occasions when it was visited the Owl's appearance was preceded by the sound of wings or legs scraping against the wall of the cavity. The top of the tree was blown off by the hurricane of September 21, but as the break was at the opening the fallen portion gave no indication of the depth of the hollow.

On one occasion, wishing to see the Owl return after being frightened from the nest, I found partial concealment beside a ledge and awaited developments. After a seventeen-minute interval there was a single hoot from near at hand, and presently the Owl came to a tree just in my field of vision. In a moment or two it flew directly to the nest and entered. As I started to leave, it left the nest again. After a ten-minute wait the bird came to the same tree it had occupied on the first return, but on flying from this perch toward the nest it probably saw me, for it veered and came to rest in a tree some distance away. Then began a series of short flights each terminating nearer the nest, but when I thought the Owl was about to enter, it flew away into the woods.

On June 1, a Barred Owl was seen in a tree at the edge of the woods below the old farm buildings at Hooper Farm. It disappeared into the woods before I could get near enough for more than a brief, long range view.

Short-eared Owl

1937

November 11, Plum Island: Just as Whitney and I turned away from a clump of bushes on the dunes, in which we had been watching a White-throated Sparrow, a Short-eared Owl flew from another group of bushes not more than thirty feet from us, and, flying low over the sand, disappeared behind a small dune some distance away. Although I carefully noted the place where the Owl vanished, subsequent search revealed no trace of him.

The flight of this Owl seemed light and hesitant, the latter adjective implying a habit of flight rather than indecision. The bird

must have been very near us all the time we were watching the Sparrow, and only took wing when we came closer to his hiding place.

Saw-whet Owl

1938

January 4: While walking along a road on Castle Hill I heard a group of Chickadees calling excitedly from some small pitch pine trees. Upon investigating I discovered a very small Owl perched on a limb almost over my head. The bird was so near that I backed off several feet in order to use the binocular. It seemed aware of my presence, but undisturbed, even though the crusty snow made considerable noise as it broke under my feet.

Not until after watching the Owl for several minutes did I observe that it had the hind quarters of a small rat lodged in a crotch of a limb. The bird's feathers partly concealed its victim, from which it took occasional bites during the latter part of my stay.

It was interesting to note that the Chickadees left as soon as I discovered the Owl.

Screech Owl

January 15, Beverly: While walking along the edge of a field, about half an hour after sunset, looking for an opening into the Snake Hill woods, I noticed a large-headed, chunky bird perched among the upper branches of a leafless tree and outlined against the sky. The instant thought, "Screech Owl," was confirmed when the binocular revealed the well-spaced, pointed ears of this species. Save for an occasional turning of its head, the Owl seemed uninterested in my attempts to imitate the squeaking of a mouse, but a sideward step toward the cover of some bushes sent the bird flying farther back into the woods. Because the visibility was poor and the bird was in silhouette, it was impossible to tell whether it was in red or gray color phase.

EDITOR'S NOTE

These notes were written by Mr. Perkins with no idea of ultimate publication. Somewhat reluctantly he has permitted us to use them, the only change from the original wording being a more formal reference to the members of his family.

CHIMNEY SWIFTS FROM THE FORESTS

WENDELL TABER

ANYONE who is used to the deep forests of northern New England and Canada must wonder what happens to the great numbers of Swifts constantly overhead, hardly ever seen to descend. From their scattered ranging over the forests I was fortunate enough one night to see the home-coming.

A little town has grown up some eight miles or so from the ocean where the fifty-mile road in to the mines in the heart of the Gaspé Mountains crosses the railroad. Except for the Grand Hotel and a scattering of houses all is forest. The chippering of Swifts outside sounded more interesting than the monotonous drone of conversation wrapped in strong tobacco smoke and I wandered out to the road. The sun had just set leaving a multi-hued sky. No air was circulating and even at that late hour the heat was oppressive. Overhead some three to four hundred Swifts were milling back and forth in orderly confusion. Suddenly, like a hawser cast from a ship, a black line broke out of the flock and poured down the small but tall chimney of the house opposite. The birds entered in such numbers and at such speed that a count was impossible. I estimated that several hundred dropped in as wave after wave followed at intervals of a few seconds each.

Ultimately only a small flock of fifteen to twenty-five remained. Again it was impossible to know exactly how many birds one was watching as they appeared and disappeared above the trees. This small flock continued to mill about and soon it became evident the number was increasing. Perhaps seventy-five birds collected. Once more the speedy descent into the chimney. This time an even smaller flock of eight to fifteen remained milling and chippering. More arrivals, perhaps from far distant sections of the forest, built the flock up to thirty or forty.

The entry of this last group marked the end of what might be called the "waves." From then on only two or three birds were visible while little "ripples" came straggling in. Thus I counted a total of one hundred and thirty-eight tardy arrivals.

My observations had commenced about 8.30 P.M. At 8.52 I thought all the birds were housed, if that is the proper word. At any rate I failed to see a single bird until a flock of twenty-five appeared at 8.55. This flock straightway entered leaving no sentry that I could see. Again at 9.00 a few birds, nine in all, appeared and promptly entered. In the next nine minutes—is there some

occult significance in the recurrence of this number—stragglers drifted in, each making a short circle of a few yards only before entering, chippering all the while. A pair arrived at 9.02 followed at intervals of from half a minute to two minutes by six individual belated commuters. I thought I heard a final arrival at 9.12, the ninth again, but failed to see it in the deep twilight.

One wonders whether the rear guard of each flock stayed to indicate the home location by sight and sound to belated stragglers. Was the original guard replaced out of the second wave, etc., etc.? How I wished I could spend a week there studying the nightly performances.



EXPERIENCES WITH NORTHERN SHRIKES

S. G. EMILIO

ABOUT noon, March 20, 1930, as I left the Museum by the Charter Street door, a Shrike, carrying a Sparrow, flew past me into a large thick bush in the rear of the building. I followed slowly, partly to assure myself that another English Sparrow had been converted to utilitarian purposes, and partly also to assure myself that the Shrike was the Northern species, and not by any chance a migrant. The bird seemed nervous at my approach so I withdrew, lest it fly, and retreated within the building where I tried to observe it satisfactorily through a window. This proved impossible so again I went outside and slowly advanced towards the bird until I was within seven feet. Then, before it could decide to fly away with its prey I moved in quickly and took the Sparrow. This was a female English and the only part consumed was the neck. As for the Shrike, in spite of my proximity, I was unable to see the dark area on the side of the head and neck, both of which appeared to be a uniform dirty gray, nor could I see the fine wavy bars on the breast, characteristic of the Northern.

Presently I tossed the Sparrow back under the bush and the Shrike pounced on it instantly then flew laboriously along the near-by fence, barely cleared the top and circling back attempted to reach the bush again but failed this time to clear the fence and fell to the ground, and I withdrew to get something to eat for myself.

When I returned an hour and a half later the Shrike was still at work on a Sparrow in the bush. I walked up at once and took the Sparrow again. The head was gone, and the rest of the carcass except the flight feathers was rather well plucked, but much meat still remained. The Shrike was very reluctant to leave its prey and boldly flew out of the bush to a branch of a near-by tree. To see what he actually dared to do I held out the Sparrow at arm's length, gently shaking it but otherwise remaining quite still. Almost at once the Shrike approached and came to within about fifteen inches from the bird but was unwilling actually to take it from me. I concluded immediately that I could catch that Shrike with no trouble at all, so I got from Mr. Morse a collecting net for insects and went back to the bush where *borealis* was looking for its dinner. I squatted down and tossed the Sparrow a little over a yard from me, the Shrike was on it almost as it touched the ground and with a flip of the net I caught him.

Inside the building, I pulled the Shrike out of the net and was

interested to find that the dark triangle on the head and neck was discernible with the bird in hand and also that the hook of the upper mandible was missing. The bird itself was neither emaciated nor fat, and its actions outside indicated either an excellent appetite, extraordinary boldness, or both. The absence of a hook on the bill explained why in a land of plenty of English Sparrows the Shrike was somewhat hungry, and why also it had taken it so long to devour one victim. It probably explained also why I escaped injury when I plunged my bare hand into the net, for the bird's nips were quite ineffectual. I had noticed when it was eating the Sparrow that it pulled backward in the direction of its bill without taking any meat, much of the time, but I did not notice the absence of the hook on the bill until I had the bird in hand. The entire bird was grimy with the city's dust and soot and the face marking nearly concealed as above noted. I judge the bird to have been an immature female, and the species was, of course, the Northern Shrike.

Finally I took the Shrike in one hand, the Sparrow in the other, let the Shrike peck at the victim a few times then tossed both from me. As usual, the Sparrow was pounced upon almost as it touched the ground and the Shrike flew again with it to the bush where it eventually ate everything but the larger bones.

This northern bird normally appears here as isolated individuals. Practically never until the winter of 1929-1930 had I seen two together. That winter the birds were most unusually numerous and on many occasions I saw two together. The behavior of two observed near my home exemplifies their conduct and is described below.

I was aroused at about 7 A.M. (clear, 32°), by a Shrike squalling from a near-by Maple, *we-we-we-we* etc. I located it and almost at once a second Shrike flew towards the tree but did not alight, circled, and came squalling from another direction towards Shrike number one, and both flew.

Subsequently I heard a great squalling as if both had a kill or were fighting and I found them not over three feet apart, each with fluttering wings, spread tail, head down and they were hopping around, to a limited extent. They separated, one flying some distance, but the squalling was continued more or less by both with fluttering, etc. One of these was adult, the other immature as has been the case every time I have been able to see two together closely, this winter.

Presently two Starlings alighted within three feet of one of the

Shrikes. This bird casually approached a foot, and suddenly took to wing, turned abruptly and charged at the two Starlings which merely flew to another tree, the Shrike alighting where they had been.

Whether the Shrikes were two males, jealous of territory or opposite sexes perhaps courting, or two of the same sex not jealous of territory but excited to courtship display by the presence of the other, is an open question.

No semblance of song was heard at any time and the only variation of the squalling was an occasional high-pitched rough explosive whistled note.

I shot a Starling out of a tree not ten feet from one Shrike. It fluttered down and caught on a lower branch but the Shrike did not attack. I killed the Starling and threw it out on the snow and presently the adult Shrike came down, danced gingerly and questioningly about it with head erect, tail spread and apparently made some noise which I could not hear as it opened its bill. It pecked a few times on the ground near the head, at blood perhaps, but did not further disturb the dead bird.



OFFSHORE

RICHARD CAREY CURTIS

IN the last several years my wife and I have spent a good part of each summer on the water off Manchester and Marblehead, either racing a sail boat from Marblehead or playing around in a very small motor boat outside of Manchester. It may be that some of the members may want to compare their own experience with birds offshore with our list. This is written in the hope of entertaining some but of instructing no one. The area covered is roughly between Gloucester and Marblehead from the islands along the shore to five or six miles out to sea. The season is from the middle of June to the middle of September.

Of course, Gulls constitute at least ninety per cent of the population. Herring Gulls and a few Black-backed Gulls nest in many of the islands regularly and are in evidence everywhere in the area, flying, screaming, or just plain sitting on the water waiting for something to turn up. Terns come next. Emilio and I have found the Common Terns nesting on a rock a hundred yards offshore from Singing Beach in Manchester and this last year — 1938 — we found a few pairs of Arctic Terns nesting at Milk Island, just beyond Gloucester. There are a few Double-crested Cormorants here all summer, although not in any numbers until August and September, and last summer I saw one pair of European Cormorants on August 20 near Baker's Island. On the outer edge of the area, five miles or so out to sea there are always a few Wilson's Petrels throughout the season, but seldom more than a dozen in an afternoon. I've never personally been lucky enough to see a Leach's Petrel in Massachusetts waters unless it is fair to extend Massachusetts out to sea along the forty-second parallel until it crosses the steamer lanes. I know of no ruling on this subject.

Other species are few and far between during this summer season. Of course, there is an occasional Spotted Sandpiper on the islands and such birds as Red-breasted Mergansers, Scoters, Night Herons, and Laughing Gulls here and there. And once in a while some bird turns up out of season. For instance, I have seen a Canada Goose perched on Egg Rock off Manchester in the middle of the summer, but my friend Ludlow Griscom told me that it must have been an escaped decoy and couldn't be counted. And I did once see a Gannet on the same rock early one August. But the species that might add to a year's list are scarce. I have pursued what was either a Jaeger or a Laughing Gull into the sunset in

my motor boat. And there are Northern Phalaropes now and then offshore. August, 1937, was the real flight. For at least a week there were well over a thousand close along the coast off Marblehead and Manchester, some within a few hundred yards off the shore. On the other hand last summer I saw them only three times out of Manchester and on each occasion three or four miles outside.

Only once have I had real luck. A northeaster had dropped to a very light breeze, but there was still a long swell. Griscom announced that it was just the right weather for Shearwaters so we started out to sea from Manchester. This was late in August, 1937. I had no confidence and no expectations, but still had sense enough to conceal my doubts. Perhaps six miles out Griscom showed us seven Shearwaters, at least four of which were Greater, one Pomarine Jaeger, three Gannets, nine Northern Phalaropes, and fifty Wilson's Petrels besides five whales. This is known in other circles as calling your shots in advance.

It would be a fair conclusion to assume that the best way to see Shearwaters and Jaegers is to wait for a dying northeaster and then bring along an expert. I've no doubt that this is good advice. But I think it would also help to go a little further out to sea, to make for some well-known fishing ground off Cape Ann, and to bring along some form of bait to attract the birds. The best form is fresh cod livers, but they are hard to get. I've tried to buy them in Gloucester and failed. If anyone knows of a good substitute, I wish he would let me know.



A MOCKINGBIRD AT GLOUCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS,
AUGUST 14, 1938

J. SOUTHGATE Y. HOYT

ON August 14, Miss Virginia Orr and myself were out in the early morning looking at the birds of Cape Ann. As we passed a certain Wild Cherry hedge on the southeast side of the Cape we were greatly surprised to see a gray bird with prominent white patches on its wings fly across the road and into the thicket. We immediately stopped for further investigation. Without a doubt this was a Mockingbird (*Mimus p. polyglottos*) at which we were looking. Both of us being from the south and thoroughly familiar with this bird in its native haunts we had no trouble at all in recognizing it at once. We waited for some time to see if it would sing, but in vain.

I tried to get further data about this bird but we saw it no more, nor did I get any reports from other people in the neighborhood as to how long it stayed or if it sang any during its visit.

CLAPPER RAIL AT GLOUCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS,
AUGUST 19, 1938

J. SOUTHGATE Y. HOYT

ON August 19, I stopped to look at some Sandpipers on a long, sandy beach bordering the southeast side of Cape Ann, my attention was drawn to a bird feeding at the base of a clump of beach grass in a tidal flat. The bird was walking around this clump and picking food from the mud with its long yellow bill. The barring on the flanks and the general gray color of the bird seemed to indicate that it was the Clapper Rail. As the bird moved back and forth before the clump, and finally out into an open area, there was ample opportunity to observe it closely for several minutes. The ashy-gray neck and body, becoming whiter on the throat could easily be seen, as well as the line of brownish gray extending down the foreneck from the throat to the breast. The dull olive-gray color on the wing coverts showed well as the sun struck the side of the bird, just before it disappeared in another clump of grass. With these characters so clearly seen it surely was the Clapper Rail. Most probably it was the Northern Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris crepitans*) as this is the race most likely to be seen in this region.

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED IN 1937

S. G. EMILIO; Recorder

JANUARY and February were very mild, and it was not until March that we experienced real winter weather. The preceding December, however, had been very cold, in spite of which the variety and abundance of birds which usually winter further south was noticeable. The Great Blue Heron, the Pintail, Kingfisher, Grackle, White-throated and Fox Sparrows, Mockingbird and Bluebird are cases in point.

The cold weather which first appeared in early March continued with little abatement until mid-April. This, of course, greatly delayed the early migrants and the Fox Sparrows, for instance, were about three weeks late in arriving in numbers.

There was reasonably favorable weather about April 20, and again May 4, 14 and 23. These four waves practically completed the spring migration except for the shore birds which were still moving in mid-June.

While several southern species, notably the Chat, Least Tern, Orchard Oriole and Louisiana Water-Thrush were recorded they hardly form a basis for any generalization.

Early June weather was ideal for nesting birds but the latter part of the month was cold and wet.

July was decidedly warm and marked particularly by a very early southward movement of Great Blue Herons, the appearance in numbers of northward straggling white Herons, and offshore, of unusual numbers of Wilson's Petrels and Northern Phalaropes. The abnormally warm weather of July continued without interruption by any stormy period until August 20. This resulted in raising the temperature of the surface water of the ocean to an almost unprecedented degree. The small marine organisms, known as plankton, upon which such birds as Phalaropes and Petrels feed, apparently increased greatly in abundance near shore under these favorable conditions and the two groups of normally pelagic birds were present in numbers greater than ever before recorded along our coast line.

More seasonable and very equable weather followed, broken on September 19 by cold weather which brought a tremendous wave of birds from the north. For eight weeks repeated cold snaps seemed to keep the country flooded with successive waves of birds, and then to the end of the year mild equable conditions again pre-

vailed and large numbers of birds which in past years went farther south to winter, stayed with us.

More completely annotated lists have appeared in other years but the Recorder is unable to do more than follows for the year 1937.

Common Loon. May 30; August 28. Unusually common at times early in the year. Seven, presumably non-breeding birds, were seen off Ipswich by Foye on July 25, and others were reported August 14, etc.—more, perhaps, than usual.

Pacific Loon. October 24; November 14, one each and November 19, Mr. F. H. Allen and Dr. W. M. Tyler, reported no less than six off Plum Island. These birds were with two Common and seven Red-throats. We still lack a specimen from local waters.

Red-throated Loon. June 6, Manchester, R. J. Eaton; October 9. Very numerous in late October and November.

Holboell's Grebe. April 11; (September 19?) October 16. Rather rare, this year in the fall. (In the 1936 list April 3 should have read May 3.)

Horned Grebe. April 18; October 17. Good flight in early April. Not normally common, late in the year, until December.

Western Grebe. This is another species still on the Hypothetical List for lack of a local specimen. It is unmistakable, however, and there is little excuse for failing to give full credence to the sight records of 1937—or any other year.

On March 27, Messrs. Buchheister and Pell told me they had just seen two at the mouth of the Merrimac. On the twenty-eighth Garret Eddy of Portland, Oregon, and H. H. Poor, both familiar with the bird in its normal range, telephoned me that they had seen the birds. How many others saw one or both birds between then and April 17, which is the last date recorded from Plum Island, I have no means of knowing. My personal dates were March 28, 31; April 4, and 8. Then on May 9 at Nahant, with Dodge, Lawson, Alexander, Foster and Southack a single bird was seen. And finally, on December 26 again at Newburyport, one bird was seen by Mr. and Mrs. Elkins, who were already familiar with the species in life.

A more extended account appears elsewhere in this *Bulletin*. (In the 1936 list December 12 should read December 16.)

Pied-billed Grebe. April 3 to November 11.

- Sooty Shearwater. A sight record from the North end of Plum Island, on May 30, by C. A. Safford is given by Miss Richardson in the *Bulletin of New England Bird Life* Vol. 1, No. 8.
- Greater Shearwater. Mr. Safford is similarly credited with this species under date of June 27. On August 24, off Manchester, R. C. Curtis and Ludlow Griscom saw three.
- Leach's Petrel. Also in the *Bulletin* Vol. 1, No. 11, is the only record for this bird, locally, in 1937—one seen at Ipswich September 5.
- Wilson's Petrel. July 15 to August 31. There is, I believe, no record in recent years of such numbers of this species in local coastal waters. The explanation, as I understand it, lies in the unusually warm weather with a total absence of storms, offshore. This resulted in an abnormally high surface temperature of the ocean near shore, and a corresponding abundance of the small plankton from which these Petrels select their food.
- Gannet. May 17, one was seen from Plum Island, by Foster, our only spring record; August 24 to November 14. On the earlier date, fifty were seen at sea off Manchester by Curtis and others. Also, on August 3 Curtis saw one, probably a summer straggler, rather than an early migrant.
- European Cormorant. April 24; September 19. A few birds appear in September, but it is late October or early November before they arrive in numbers. This species seems to be steadily increasing.
- Double-crested Cormorant. April 24 to May 13; August 15 to November 14. There is also a report for July 4—a summer straggler, and another for December 5—a bird seen at Nahant which I believe to have been this species. As always, an abundant migrant.
- Great Blue Heron. Three winter records, January 13 and 24, and February 28—a most unusual number of migrant birds, April 3 to June 2; July 5—eight were seen at Rowley, a new early date for transients—to December 26.
- American Egret. July 15 to October 8. No less than twenty-eight were seen at Rowley on September 4 and this marks the crest of the flight which was probably the greatest that has ever occurred.
- Little Blue Heron. July 25 to September 26. Outnumbered by the Egrets though the reverse is usually the case.

Green Heron. May 2 to August 29. The latter date is absurdly early for the species to disappear but the Recorder has no later date.

Black-crowned Night Heron. March 26 to December 10. Five were seen in Salem on the latter date and on the twenty-sixth of the month a single bird was found on Cape Ann. There was another wintering bird on Plum Island January 5, 1937.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron. July 8 to July 29. This species was apparently unaffected by whatever drove the white Herons north in such numbers this year.

American Bittern. April 11 to November 20. The later reports seem to come from the salt marshes.

Least Bittern. Heard, May 23 and 27 at Lynnfield where it probably nests.

Canada Goose. March 23 to June 3; October 2 to December 15. Four birds were seen from Plum Island February 18 and March 2 but the spring migrants were much delayed by cold weather and the numbers were small. From mid-December to the end of the year eleven were seen at intervals from Plum Island.

Brant. April 4 to May 22; October 18 to December 9. Probably regaining, slowly, its former abundance.

Mallard. Wintered at Newburyport in exceptional numbers—twelve were seen January 30—to May 30; August 12 and 22 a female, presumably wild, was seen at Clark's Pond with Black Ducks. These are new early dates for a migrant bird. October 1 to end of year.

Red-legged Black Duck. Wintered in great numbers—especially at Newburyport where some thirty-five hundred were seen on January 24—to May 30; October 1, one thousand were reported by Griscom, and on December 12, five thousand by H. H. Poor, in both cases at Newburyport.

Common Black Duck. Resident. Occasionally identified in winter in the great flocks of Red-legs.

Gadwall. May 2, at Newburyport, two birds were seen by Griscom. November 14, at Lynn, one.

European Widgeon. October 9 to November 25. One or two birds were observed at various times in the ponds of the northern part of the County. There was a fine adult male in the Artichoke basin on November 2.

- Baldpate. The only bird reported in the spring was seen March 14 at Newburyport; September 18 to December 11. Somewhat below normal numbers.
- Pintail. At least four wintered at Newburyport, and additional birds occurred to April 3; September 7 to the end of the year, in limited numbers.
- Green-winged Teal. February 21, three were seen at Ipswich by Mrs. J. F. Dubois, the very mild conditions prevailing obviously encouraged very early migration. Species observed to May 1. Exceptionally early fall migration also occurred and two birds were seen at Ipswich on August 12, more than a week earlier than any previous record. Still present at the close of the year.
- Blue-winged Teal. March 13 to October 24. The species apparently nested again at two places in Ipswich. On August 5, Griscom reported thirty-four birds, which total probably included some, if not many, migrants. (In the 1936 list November 1 should have read November 8.)
- Shoveller. One report only—Ipswich, September 18, Curtis.
- Wood Duck. March 20 to November 11. Griscom and others found an aggregation of over seventy at Lynnfield on May 27, and corresponding abundance was observed at other times.
- Redhead. The Recorder has but two reports for the year, neither being a wholly satisfactory identification. The species is very rare here.
- Ring-necked Duck. February 6, Newburyport, three birds, seen by Taber and Stackpole; October 9, West Newbury, Garrison. Much rarer than in recent years.
- Greater Scaup Duck. May 2; October 9. Either less attention was paid to this species or there were markedly fewer birds to be noticed this year. The normal status is common migrant and local winter resident.
- American Golden-eye. May 2; October 9. One female only was seen October 9 and not until October 31 did real migrants appear in number.
- Barrow's Golden-eye. The recorded dates are as follows: January 31, Rockport; February 6 and March 14, Newburyport. December 11 and 18, Lynn; and December 25, Beverly, at Mingo Beach. Lynn was long considered the only place to find this rare winter visitor in the County but Cape Ann and Newburyport, in recent years, and now Beverly seem to have possibilities, though Lynn is still the best locality.

- Bufflehead. May 2; October 9. The status of locally common winter resident is maintained.
- Old Squaw. May 23; October 2. There were five hundred in Newburyport harbor November 27, according to Mr. F. H. Allen.
- Harlequin Duck. January 24, off Cape Ann, two birds seen by Griscom and party.
- American Eider. January 24, off Cape Ann, Griscom and party saw four males and two females. Three were reported December 5 and the Christmas Census party, off Cape Ann again, on December 26, saw seventy-five.
- King Eider. The species appeared in the fall of 1936 in unprecedented numbers. Three birds of this flight remained off the mouth of the Merrimac until January 30. The next report is from the Christmas Census party on December 26, when twelve were seen off Cape Ann—a number exceeded only in 1936.
- White-winged Scoter. May 30; August 14. While there is no additional report of migration until September 19, forty-seven birds were seen on August 14 and the conclusion seems fair that they were migrants rather than summering birds. If so this is a new early date.
- Surf Scoter. May 30; August 14, four birds, again, a new early date for migrants.
- American Scoter. May 1; August 14, two birds. This species is known to summer in limited numbers as are the two preceding, and again it is pure assumption that this mixed flock of fifty or more birds, were early migrants. The date is three weeks earlier than any other for migrants.
- Ruddy Duck. September 16 to December 26. Eight were reported in the County on November 11, and four in Hagget's Pond, November 25.
- Hooded Merganser. March 28 to April 18; August 24 to December 11. A most unusual number of birds reported—ten on November 25, for instance, and many reports. (In the 1936 list very slight straggler should have read very late straggler.)
- American Merganser. May 2; October 31. There was a flock of about eighty in the Artichoke basin on April 7. This winter resident shows no diminution in numbers.
- Red-breasted Merganser. May 30; October 12. In addition there is evidence a pair nested in Ipswich, but is not wholly certain they did so.

- Black Vulture. December 26, Hamilton. To quote from the report in *Bird Lore* "The Black Vulture was seen over Sagamore Hill, Hamilton in perfect light and at close range by Emilio, Dodge, and Foye. The absurdly short tail and the round whitish spots near the wing tips were clearly seen. There are nine other records for Essex County." We eventually learned that the same bird (probably) was seen a few hours earlier at a point about eight miles to the northwestward.
- Goshawk. There are but few records—the last in spring April 11 and the first in the fall October 30.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk. Resident, but the great majority of the dates recorded lie between May 2 and October 31.
- Cooper's Hawk. One winter record only, February 6. The balance lie between May 2 and September 12. Less common than the Sharp-shin.
- Red-tailed Hawk. March 21; November 11. The bird is essentially a winter visitor as indicated. Perkins, however, reports one on July 20 and the Recorder saw one at West Newbury August 29. This would suggest an occasional nesting.
- Red-shouldered Hawk. Resident, not common.
- Broad-winged Hawk. May 13 to August 24—a somewhat abbreviated season this year.
- Rough-legged Hawk. Only one spring record, March 29, Perkins. October 9 on, still rather rare.
- Bald Eagle. The winter records are confined to January, this year—presumably birds of the northern race. Safford reports it twice in August.
- Marsh Hawk. March 14 to October 31, and two December dates by Safford at Plum Island.
- Osprey. March 30 to May 23; August 15 to October 12.
- Duck Hawk. As in 1936, the species was observed occasionally in January, February, April and May. A new early post-breeding date is August 14 by Safford at Plum Island. The latest for the fall November 26.
- Pigeon Hawk. May 2 to May 21; August 15 to October 19. The new early August record was by Safford at Plum Island.
- Sparrow Hawk. Resident, not uncommon.
- Ruffed Grouse. Resident. Unreported in August and September, otherwise normal.
- Bob-White. A one-time resident but observed only between May 30 and August 8.

Pheasant. Another so-called resident with no reports for July, August, and most of September.

Sandhill Crane. When an observer as familiar with the Great Blue Heron as Warden Safford of the Annie Brown Sanctuary on Plum Island, reports seeing a Crane in flight, it is not good sense to laugh off the matter as just another Heron with its neck stretched out. On October 9, Mr. Safford saw a bird flying south which he believed to be a Crane and there is no sound reason for thinking that his identification was in error. On October 6, 1920 three birds believed to be Sandhill Cranes were seen and heard in this County. Again on October 11, 1933, three more were reported as seen flying south over Danvers. However, with only the unsatisfactory record of 1889, referred to in this *Bulletin* for 1925, page 42, and the above mentioned three sight records to indicate the probable occurrence of the extirpated species hereabouts, it seems safest to leave it in the Hypothetical List for our County.

Virginia Rail. April 18 to October 9.

Sora Rail. April 19 to October 11.

Florida Gallinule. Of the Rail tribe this is one of the rarer birds hereabouts and there are but two reports for the year—May 23, at Lynnfield, R. J. Eaton and O. K. Scott; and July 3, Ipswich, F. A. Saunders.

Coot. April 18, Danvers, one bird only, seen by the Recorder; October 5 to November 2.

Piping Plover. March 28 to September 15.

Semipalmated Plover. May 17 to May 30; July 8 to October 31.

Killdeer. Mr. C. E. Clarke found the bird at Gloucester on February 28. This is a new early spring date for the County. Last report for the year November 11.

Golden Plover. The species appears occasionally in spring and was seen by Safford on May 25 and 26 at Plum Island; a new early fall date for the County was reported by Taber and Stackpole, July 14, Lynn. Last, October 29.

Black-bellied Plover. May 8 to May 30; a straggler at Ipswich, June 20, and seven at Plum Island, July 6; August 1 to November 15; and a late straggler again at Plum Island December 4, Garrison; December 5, Alexander and Emilio; and finally December 7 at West Gloucester, Perkins. The December dates are unprecedented.

Ruddy Turnstone. May 13 to May 23; July 30 to September 5.

Woodcock. February 28 to November 14.

- Snipe. April 4 to May 15; August 14 to November 11.
- Hudsonian Curlew. July 6 to October 7. An injured bird was seen on October 24 at Newburyport by Griscom. This is by far the latest County date.
- Upland Plover. April 25 to September 4, a normal seasonal range. The bulk of the reports come from Newburyport.
- Spotted Sandpiper. May 9 to September 18, a decidedly abbreviated season.
- Solitary Sandpiper. May 15 and 16, only; July 11 to October 11.
- Willet subsp.? May 31 to June 2; August 3 to 15, at Plum Island, Safford.
- Greater Yellow-legs. April 11 to June 11; stragglers on June 25 and July 3 and 4; migrants, July 15 to November 20.
- Lesser Yellow-legs. July 4 to October 27.
- Knot. May 8, Plum Island, Safford—a new early date—to June 2; July 30 to November 7. Rather good numbers reported.
- Purple Sandpiper. Last report in spring February 28; first autumn—November 14 when several flocks were seen. A rather neglected species this year.
- Pectoral Sandpiper. April 16 to April 19, only; July 29 to October 27.
- White-rumped Sandpiper. May 12 to May 23; July 21 to November 21. On the last date a single bird was seen and heard at the northern tip of Plum Island by the Recorder and others. It is a new late date for the County.
- Baird's Sandpiper. This rare bird was observed at Lynn on June 8 by Mrs. H. B. Elkins. We have only one other spring record, a bird seen by A. P. Stubbs at Nahant on May 17, 1927. There are two fall records for the year, September 18 and 26.
- Least Sandpiper. May 9 to June 2; July 4 to August 29.
- Red-backed Sandpiper. May 8 to June 2; August 10 at Newburyport Griscom saw a lone *alpina* which he suspected from the date and appearance to have been the European race, known as the Dunlin; October 1 to November 14 in numbers; and subsequently on December 2, 4, 5, 12, 19, 22 and finally 31, when only one bird remained of the fifteen reported December 2.
- Eastern Dowitcher. May 8 to June 2; July 3 to August 29.
- Long-billed Dowitcher. October 1 to November 7. Griscom saw two on October 24 and that date together with November 7—a bird seen in Newburyport by Alexander and the Recorder—are new late dates for the County.

- Stilt Sandpiper. August 12 to October 3.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper. May 9 to June 2; July 5 to November 2. The July date is very early for migrants.
- Western Sandpiper. July 24, Rowley, two birds seen by Griscom, to October 2. The July date is a new early fall figure. A rare bird and very few reported.
- Marbled Godwit. September 20 and October 7, single birds at Plum Island seen by Safford.
- Hudsonian Godwit. October 7, Plum Island, three birds seen by J. A. Hagar and October 17, two by Safford.
- Sanderling. May 8 to June 6; July 4 to end of year. The December records subsequent to the fifth are December 11, Plum Island, seven birds, Garrison; December 19, two, Alexander; December 26, two, *Bird Lore* Census, and still present January 8, Garrison.
- Northern Phalarope. August 12 to August 31. There were hundreds off Manchester in mid-August and forty were seen by Taber off Marblehead on the thirty-first. There has been no such coastal visitation of normally pelagic birds in recent years.
- Pomarine Jaeger. August 24, Manchester, Curtis and Griscom; and September 5, Ipswich, four seen by Miss Snow and others.
- Parasitic Jaeger. August 22 to September 18. More reported than usual.
- Glaucous Gull. Normally common to February 23; and rather scarce from November 14 to end of the year. Another summering record is of a bird seen at Lynn July 4 to August 1 by the Recorder. This bird was molting into presumably second year plumage.
- Iceland Gull. April 11; November 14. A bird of this species was reported seen at Salem, July 26.
- Great Black-backed Gull. Resident, rarest, of course, in summer. One hundred and fourteen were seen off Cape Ann on December 26.
- Herring Gull. Resident. The Christmas Census lists twenty-six hundred at Cape Ann.
- "Kumlien's" Gull. Frequently reported to March 14; December 22.
- Ring-billed Gull. Observed every month from January to August and in November and December.
- European Black-headed Gull. January 1, Newburyport, adult, white below; January 3, adult, buffy below; January 30, im-

mature—obviously three birds. (A full account appears in the last *Bulletin* on page 24.) November 7, Newburyport, two, seen by Tousey and the Recorder, among others. November 11, again; November 19, one bird, F. H. Allen; December 1, 15, and 26, Griscom and others, one bird each time.

Laughing Gull. April 24 to May 23; two were seen at Ipswich June 20 by the Shreve brothers; July 4, Lynn, fifty, to October 19.

Bonaparte's Gull. Technically a resident, that is, likely to be seen at any time, but actually erratic in occurrence. Common during January this year. Not reported again until May 17, and for the balance of the year missing only in September.

Kittiwake. Five reports in January; October 2 on, only four.

Common Tern. May 8 to November 11.

Arctic Tern. June 6 to August 30.

Roseate Tern. May 16 to June 6; July 29 to August 31. Fewer reports than usual.

Least Tern. May 17, four birds seen and carefully identified by M. E. Foster. This is the first local record since the late Dr. C. W. Townsend recorded one at Ipswich in late June, 1933.

Caspian Tern. September 5, Ipswich, Miss Snow.

Black Tern. August 22, Ipswich, one, Curtis. August 28, Plum Island, Hagar; and September 5, Plum Island, twelve birds were seen by Curtis. This is the largest number the Recorder knows of as having been seen in one day hereabouts.

Razor-billed Auk. January 10, one, Gloucester, Taber; and November 14, one, Rockport, Griscom, constitute the only records for the year.

Brunnich's Murre. There are five reports to March 1, when two were seen at Manchester by Griscom. November 17 and December 26. A trifle commoner than usual.

Dovekie. March 14; November 13. This little winter visitor appeared in some numbers in the fall.

Black Guillemot. March 14; November 14. Also a trifle more common than usual.

Puffin. One bird only seen during the year, at Ipswich on January 9 by C. E. Clarke.

Rock Dove.

Mourning Dove. March 29 to November 21 and a total of sixteen reported on December 26 by the Census party—obviously wintering birds.

- Yellow-billed Cuckoo. May 24 to June 27, then no reports until October 3 when one was seen by Curtis. (In the 1936 list, West Roxbury should have read West Newbury.)
- Black-billed Cuckoo. May 13 to July 18.
- Screech Owl. Resident. About the usual number reported.
- Great Horned Owl. Resident. Fewer reported than last year.
- Snowy Owl. A few seen to February 25; November 11 to the end of the year in relatively large numbers, eleven being reported along the coast on December 26.
- Barred Owl. Resident. Rare, but regularly found in the central part of the County.
- Long-eared Owl. Resident. Seen at Lynn in April, and Plum Island in November, and heard at various other times.
- Short-eared Owl. October 3 to December 6. Two were seen on Plum Island, on both dates and on November 18. Another reported from West Lynn, November 11.
- Saw-Whet Owl. Reported heard April 19 in Boxford and also September 7 when Taber listed seven birds heard singly at various points in the County. Reported again in November.
- Whip-poor-will. May 4 to July 7. The bird was almost certainly present and in song at various times for nearly three months more, but no one turned in to the Recorder any report.
- Nighthawk. May 14 to October 2, as early and almost as late as the bird has ever been recorded here. The late date stands alone this year as none had been reported for several weeks.
- Chimney Swift. May 2 to September 24.
- Hummingbird. May 11 to September 23. There is no record on the card from June 13 to September 13 but its presence is taken for granted.
- Belted Kingfisher. Several wintered, migrants appearing March 21 remaining to October 19 and wintering birds observed again in December—three on the twenty-sixth, and others.
- Flicker. Resident but decidedly scarce before March 31 and after November 21.
- Pileated Woodpecker. There are three records for the year, a young male collected for the Peabody Museum of Salem, March 2 in Middleton, a pair seen April 11 and one bird reported from Hamilton April 25.
- Red-headed Woodpecker. March 1, Lynn, Moulton.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. April 8 to April 28; October 12 is the only fall date reported.
- Hairy Woodpecker. Resident. Normal numbers.

- Downy Woodpecker. Resident. Unusually large numbers listed on the Christmas Census.
- Kingbird. May 5 to September 4.
- Arkansas Kingbird. September 28 and 30 at Plum Island, seen by Safford; and October 6, Rockport.
- Crested Flycatcher. May 1 to July 18. Never at all common it seems to drop out of sight rather early but its normal season runs into September.
- Phoebe. April 1 to October 17. A bird was heard but not seen in Middleton on March 2, a new early date by eleven days, by a former Club member. It will be remembered that February had been very mild and March brought the only severe weather of the winter.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. May 23 to May 27—some half dozen birds reported at Nahant by Griscom and others.
- Alder Flycatcher. May 23 to July 25. A few nest here.
- Least Flycatcher. May 2 to July 18.
- Wood Pewee. May 13 to August 15 and a very late straggler reported to the New England Museum from Annisquam, October 13.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher. May 27 to June 6; August 15 to September 16; just the four reports whose dates are given.
- Northern Horned Lark. April 4; October 31.
- Prairie Horned Lark. April 4 to August 15, under observation a very brief season.
- Tree Swallow. March 22 to September 18.
- Bank Swallow. April 25, West Peabody—one bird seen by the Recorder and others—is a new early date; to August 24 and September 26, West Newbury, Tousey, a new late date by ten days.
- Rough-winged Swallow. April 18, 19, and 25, all new early spring dates by Granger and Emilio, at Lynn, to July 11, West Peabody, where a family of eight was seen by Emilio and others.
- Barn Swallow. April 11 to September 18 and a late straggler October 19 at Ipswich, Emilio.
- Cliff Swallow. May 5 to August 24.
- Purple Martin. May 9, Lynn, Giles; May 10, Nahant, Griscom; and May 15, Plum Island, Foster and Curtis. We have been lucky in recent years to record even one bird, so the three this spring are an unusual number. August 9 and 24.

Blue Jay. Resident. Ten times as many as last year, namely one hundred and twenty, seen on the Christmas Census of Cape Ann.

Crow. Resident. No material change noted.

Black-capped Chickadee. Resident. Apparently even more common than in 1936.

White-breasted Nuthatch. Resident. No reports for August or November, but doubtless present.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. January 10 and May 2 seem to be the only dates for the first half of the year indicating a great scarcity. September 10 to end of the year abundant, the Census party listing one hundred and twenty-seven.

Brown Creeper. April 25; September 19. In addition there is a single record during the nesting season of a bird seen at Topsfield, May 30. The species has occurred before in the summer season.

House Wren. May 1 to October 12. On the latter date a bird was seen at Nahant by Griscom and except for the single individual which was observed in Lynn some years ago from October 9 to November 27, this is the latest fall date by six days.

Winter Wren. April 19 is the only definite spring date available; October 3 to 31; and finally a wintering bird on Cape Ann, December 26.

Carolina Wren. December 12 to December 26, presumably the same bird, at Gloucester.

Prairie Marsh Wren. May 9 to October 19.

Short-billed Marsh Wren. May 2 to August 1. The normal season extends into October but there are no later reports at hand.

Mockingbird. January 4, Ipswich, Mr. Dubois. The bird at Rockport, reputedly resident there for about two years was seen by the Recorder and others February 7 and March 7 and reported to be in song April 15.

Catbird. May 5 to October 31. This is a new late date for a bird which we assume has not lost its ability to migrate, and was reported by Granger, from Lynn. In addition, one was seen at Ipswich November 1 and 17 by Perkins, and there was another occurrence at Beverly from December 20 to the end of the year at Mrs. Heald's feeding station on Prospect Hill.

Brown Thrasher. May 2 to October 12.

Robin. Migrants from about March 30 to November 2, and also frequently observed during the winter months. There were large flocks in early April after the delay in migration caused by the severe March weather.

Wood Thrush. May 9 to September 26.

Hermit Thrush. April 18 to November 22. It is possible that a bird seen by Perkins on March 23 was a migrant but I consider it and a bird seen December 26 both winter casuals.

Olive-backed Thrush. May 9 to May 27; October 9 is the only fall date on record.

Gray-cheeked Thrush. May 12 to May 23; and I have no fall records at all for this year.

Bicknell's Thrush. May 27, Nahant, a bird seen by Griscom, is the only record of this sub species.

Veery. May 9 to August 29.

Bluebird. February 13, a male appeared in North Salem and was reported by C. F. Ropes. The same or another was similarly seen February 27, and three in Danvers, March 6, by H. F. Phillips. Their season extended to November 2, with a straggler in Danvers, December 8, seen by Foye.

Golden-crowned Kinglet. Winter residents and migrants to April 21. A male, in song, was seen and heard in Ipswich, by Teel and the Recorder on May 16. This was very possibly a nesting bird. October 1 to end of the year rather scarce.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet. April 18 to May 2; October 1 to November 2.

Pipit. October 9 to October 31. In addition Taber and Stackpole report seeing a bird at Lynn on July 14 a wholly unprecedented date.

Cedar Waxwing. Technically a resident but observed this year only between February 20 and October 31. There were an unusual number of early spring birds seen.

Northern Shrike. January 17, April 4 and October 23 are the only occurrences listed for the year.

Migrant Shrike. April 18; August 24 to September 21—five dates reported mainly from Plum Island.

Starling. Resident. Only half as many seen on the Christmas Census as last year.

White-eyed Vireo. May 16, one bird observed by Prof. F. A. Saunders along the Ipswich River.

Yellow-throated Vireo. May 6 to July 7. A rare bird now.

Blue-headed Vireo. April 20 to October 1. The data at hand this year regarding many species are decidedly sketchy. In this case no figure is listed between July 5 and October 1, but the bird is a rare summer resident.

- Red-eyed Vireo. May 13 to September 12. By far the commonest Vireo.
- Philadelphia Vireo. May 27, Nahant, Griscom, and others.
- Warbling Vireo. May 10 to August 29. Here again, for many weeks prior to August 29 there is no recorded occurrence of this bird which is decidedly uncommon now.
- Black and White Warbler. May 2 to October 3.
- Golden-winged Warbler. May 6 to August 1.
- Tennessee Warbler. May 22 is the only definite date.
- Nashville Warbler. May 9 to October 12.
- Parula Warbler. May 5 to May 23; October 9 is the only fall record.
- Yellow Warbler. May 5 to September 1.
- Magnolia Warbler. May 4 to May 27. There are no fall dates at hand.
- Cape May Warbler. May 24, Swampscott, Southack, is the only available record.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler. May 12 to May 23. And again no data on the fall flight.
- Myrtle Warbler. Wintered in small numbers as usual and passed through in spring in great numbers. Apparently nesting in Andover May 24 and June 6, Dodge and Emilio. October 1 to November 21, migrants and again wintering, one hundred and thirty counted on the Census December 26.
- Black-throated Green Warbler. May 1 to October 19.
- Blackburnian Warbler. May 9 to June 27. This species also appears badly neglected.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler. May 5 to September 26.
- Bay-breasted Warbler. May 23 is the only date reported.
- Black-poll Warbler. May 5 to May 27; September 10 to October 24.
- Pine Warbler. April 11 to October 3.
- Prairie Warbler. May 5 to September 19.
- Western Palm Warbler. October 1 to December 12. Only a few observed.
- Yellow Palm Warbler. April 11 to May 9; September 19 to November 7.
- Ovenbird. May 2 to September 7.
- Northern Water Thrush. May 12 to May 27, migrant birds; June 17 two heard in song along Fish Brook in Boxford. The species has occurred here before in the nesting season but no nest has been found; August 14 to October 18, Lynn, a bird reported by Moulton.

- Louisiana Water Thrush. In the Fay estate at Lynn on May 5, Moulton and on May 7 Miss Batchelder report this species. We have as yet no local specimens and the bird therefore ranks only as an hypothetical.
- Connecticut Warbler. September 19 to October 10. Rare migrant.
- Mourning Warbler. May 27, West Peabody, Griscom. A much rarer migrant.
- Northern Yellow-throat. May 8 to October 12.
- Yellow-breasted Chat. May 13 to July 11. The numerous dates reported are all from Beverly near the Montserrat Station, where a pair presumably nested for the second year.
- Wilson's Warbler. May 14 to May 23.
- Canada Warbler. May 14 to June 27. Another rare summer resident badly neglected.
- Redstart. May 9 to October 3, and finally October 17, Beverly, Alexander and Emilio, a new late date by three days.
- English Sparrow.
- Bobolink. May 9 to August 15. This species seems to be slowly decreasing in numbers.
- Meadowlark. Technically a resident, but, except for one bird in January seen by Foye, two December 19, Alexander, and six December 26 by the Census parties at Cape Ann and Newburyport all the other dates fall between March 19 and November 21.
- Red-wing. March 8 to November 21.
- Orchard Oriole. May 16, Topsfield, immature male seen by Emilio and others.
- Baltimore Oriole. January 1 to 31 at Rockport seen by Miss Frohawk, Mrs. Eldridge and others. May 5 to September 25.
- Rusty Blackbird. March 28 to April 25; October 1 to November 7.
- Bronzed Grackle. March 14, to November 11. There was a bird in Salem in January and two in Topsfield; early in December there was one in Middleton and the Cape Ann Census party reported one. The high-light of the occurrence of this species was, however, the immense concentration in the northern part of the County in early November. On the sixth, seventh, and tenth straggling flocks estimated to contain from three hundred thousand to five hundred thousand birds were seen by Messrs. William Perry, Tousey, Emilio and others.
- Cowbird. March 20 to November 21.
- Scarlet Tanager. May 12 to July 28. Another species for which fall reports are lacking.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. May 4 to September 9.

Indigo Bunting. May 15 to July 25. Still another bird often found in late September, with no records for this year.

Evening Grosbeak. January 24 at Topsfield and March 14 at Ipswich. This is a bird which if present would be reported. There simply were not any this year.

Purple Finch. Resident, but I have no dates for July, September and November.

Common Redpoll. Several flocks seen to April 14; December 26, five birds, Beverly.

Pine Siskin. From March to May 23.

Goldfinch. Resident. Three hundred listed on the Cape Ann Census as against one hundred in 1936.

Red Crossbill. Last year a single bird heard at Pleasant Pond was the only record and the situation is the same this year except that the Recorder himself alleges he heard the bird, on January 1. It is passing strange no other reports have come in of birds either seen or heard.

White-winged Crossbill. Mrs. E. T. Brewster of Andover saw several at her feeding station on May 3.

Towhee. April 19 to October 31. There are records of three wintering birds, one at Nahant on November 28 and December 5, and two at Cape Ann, on December 26.

Ipswich Sparrow. Several birds in April, last April 19; October 31 to the end of the year an unusual number of reports representing probably a dozen birds.

Savannah Sparrow. Extraordinarily late in arriving as there seems to be no report prior to April 11. Its season continued to November 11 and seven individuals were found wintering at the time of the Christmas Census, on Cape Ann and adjoining territory.

Grasshopper Sparrow. May 9, Boxford, Lawson and others, a new early date by one day, to July 15. During that period there was a most unusual number of birds reported including a nesting pair in Peabody which raised three young.

Henslow's Sparrow. On November 11 at West Gloucester Miss Snow and others of the Brookline Bird Club identified a Sparrow as this species. There is no sound basis for questioning the identification but the bird has not been seen in this County for twenty years so far as I know, and never later than September.

Acadian Sparrow. October 24, Plum Island, Griscom and others.

- Sharp-tailed Sparrow. May 30 to August 24. This elusive and local summer resident is rarely reported.
- Vesper Sparrow. April 8 to November 11, Griscom; a new late date by one day.
- Lark Sparrow. September 6, Ipswich, two, Miss Snow; and Plum Island, September 28, two, Safford. Straggling east with some regularity in recent years.
- Junco. May 2; October 1. Nearly twice as many as in 1936 on the Cape Ann Census December 26.
- Tree Sparrow. April 18; October 31. About the same number on the Census as in 1936.
- Chipping Sparrow. April 14 to November 2.
- Field Sparrow. April 11 to November 2.
- White-crowned Sparrow. May 13 to May 23; October 12 to November 15. Mr. Safford at Plum Island saw this species more frequently than anyone else.
- White-throated Sparrow. Various individuals and small groups apparently wintered successfully. Migrants from May 2 to May 23; September 19 to November 21 and again wintering birds found—fourteen on December 26 at Cape Ann and adjoining territory.
- Fox Sparrow. January 1, Lynn, Moulton. Migrants delayed to March 31, then appearing in great numbers, the last seen April 19; October 31, with stragglers through December.
- Lincoln's Sparrow. May 14 to May 23; October 10 and October 12. Six birds in all.
- Swamp Sparrow. April 11 to November 21, and two December 26, obviously wintering birds.
- Song Sparrow. Resident. In very limited numbers during the winter with migrants and summer residents from about March 15 to November 21. There were eighteen counted December 26 contrasted with just three the preceding year.
- Lapland Longspur. An astonishing count of eighty-five was made by Griscom and party on January 24 in Ipswich. This flock disappeared however, and reports were scarce to March 28, and finally on the extraordinary date of May 22, Curtis saw one in full spring plumage. This is a new late date by three weeks. Again in the fall, Tousey broke the date of arrival record by three days, by finding the species on September 26. Observed numbers have greatly increased in recent years.
- Snow Bunting. March 28; October 31. Scarce.

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED IN 1938

S. G. EMILIO, *Recorder*

NINETEEN hundred and thirty-eight brought us some very wide departures from normal weather conditions. February, March and April all were nearly three degrees higher than usual in temperature, an amount enough to produce an extremely early spring with vegetation at least two weeks ahead of normal on May 1. Precipitation was about three-fourths of average during this period. May, June, and July were notable for their precipitation records, which ran 140, 227 and 294 per cent of normal. Nearly nine and a half inches of rain fell in July, or, as indicated, practically three times the usual fall. Again in September the rainfall was nearly double the normal amount. And then the last quarter of the year distinguished itself by extraordinary mildness with the November daily average temperature up over four degrees, while October and December were up about half that amount. This gave us green lawns practically to the end of the year and many out-of-season blossoms in November, but the effect on the avian world was not particularly pronounced though there are some stragglers or hold-overs into the winter season.

Apart from the cumulative aspects of the weather two events at least are worthy of note, the severe storm of mid-May and the September hurricane. Both storm centers passed northward inland, or to the westward of the Massachusetts coast, and so the winds were southerly here. Almost at the height of the gale in May, the Recorder and others saw a Man-o'-war Bird (*Fregata magnificens*) over the ocean from Nahant, and in late September we learned of a bird identified (probably correctly as a Black Skimmer at Newburyport and another (with less certainty) identified as a White-bellied Booby. All these, if actually present here, had been carried northward many hundreds of miles from their normal range.

The effect of the excessive rains in late June and July is not known in a quantitative way, of course, but it is certain that many broods perished—in the flooded meadows if nowhere else. It is fortunate the spring was so warm for the resultant early start of the nesting seasons permitted many species to rear a first brood before the deluge came.

It may not be out of place to review, very briefly, the major movements of the year. March 13 brought the first real wave of northbound migrants followed a week later by a tremendous

movement of birds from the south. Not again until April 11 was there a marked influx but from then until the fifteenth it was very warm and the spring, already earlier than normal became still further advanced. We find a Thrasher arriving at Marblehead on April 15 and the Black-throated Green Warbler at Boxford, April 20. Strong migratory movements then appeared at weekly intervals, about April 22, 28, and May 6-7. Except for the above mentioned hurricane of May 14-15—which brought no great change in temperature—the weather remained rather cool and equable well into June. It is not infrequently observed that with strong and early migratory waves Austral birds overshoot, and appear here in the Transition zone. So this year we have the Brewster's Warbler, in Lynn and Byfield, the Hooded at Plum Island, and the Cerulean, which was seen, on May 8, for the first time in this County.

As was to be expected after such a very early spring, birds began to move southward again very early in the summer. The quiet disappearance of local species is not a striking phenomenon. But it was striking to see the early shore birds in considerable variety and numbers on flooded cornfields, golf links, etc. The fall migration of land birds was much in evidence on August 25, and again about September 10 and 25. While more dates are reported for week-ends than mid-week days, the weather maps of both September 9 and 24 show the approach of high pressure, cool weather areas invariably conducive to marked southward flights at this time of year. Climatic conditions produced no marked movements of land birds thereafter, but at the end of October in a northeaster there was considerable activity among the waterfowl.

The following list is the longest we have published. From the absence of late summer and early fall dates for many species it is evident that enthusiasm for field work is much greater in the spring. For those interested in making new early records, this year was a banner one. The really striking thing, however, lay a bit below the familiar statistical surface, and this was the bulk arrival of many species at extremely early dates. The appearance of the first adventurous individual of a species (frequently referred to as a straggler—which it is not) in a given year, or for all time, is the date appearing in print in connection with the migration of that species. However, while it is relatively easy to determine that figure such a date is of much less significance than the general, or bulk, arrival date which is too seldom observed and even less frequently recorded.

Common Loon. Two were reported from Plum Island as late as June 12; September 30.

Pacific Loon. It is interesting to note that a bird partly in breeding plumage and hence easily identified has recently been seen at Monomy. While this does not settle the identity of the birds frequently seen off our County coast it does lend a bit of credibility to those reports. For 1938 the species is alleged to have been seen November 13 at Ipswich, November 14 at Nahant and November 20 at Plum Island.

Red-throated Loon. Exceptionally heavy spring flight to May 7, and as late as June 5, off Plum Island, Tousey saw two stragglers; July 19, also off Plum Island, S. A. Eliot, Jr. saw three in breeding plumage—obviously summering, but not breeding, birds. October 9 on, again in unusual abundance, but scarce at the end of the year.

Holboell's Grebe. Taber and Stackpole counted fifty-four along shore on February 13, apparently the peak of the migration which continued to May 1; November 20, six birds at Ipswich were the very belated first to be reported in the fall.

Horned Grebe. This species seemed to be most numerous at the end of February, some two weeks later than the Holboell's. The migration continued to May 7; October 8 in very limited numbers to mid-November, and rather unusually scarce to the end of the year.

Pied-Billed Grebe. March 20 to November 20.

Sooty Shearwater. September 5, one is reported to have been seen by members of the Brookline Bird Club off Gloucester.

Wilson's Petrel. The Recorder saw several off Baker's Island July 17.

White-bellied Booby. It seems to the Recorder more desirable to include mention of this alleged occurrence than to omit all reference to the matter. The facts of the case are that a group of about fifteen observers saw from Plum Island on October 9, a gannet-like bird, which, in the opinion of the more experienced members of the group, was *not* a Gannet (*Moris bassana*). There was an intangible difference in flight and shape first observed at distance and as the bird approached and passed flying along parallel to the beach it appeared smaller than a Gannet to some of us (larger to none) and a dark belly was definitely observed. Some of the same group, a week or so later, observed an immature Gannet under almost identical conditions and greatly strengthened their opinion

of the different identity of the bird in question. A stray *Sula leucogaster*, driven far north by the September hurricane fits the case very nicely, but this identification is purely hypothetical with no vestige of proof.

Gannet. May 1 to May 22, very few seen; September 1 an immature was seen by Griscom; October 5 to November 6.

European Cormorant. Common off the rocky shores until April 24; two summering immatures were seen by Curtis on August 20; no fall migrants were reported until October 20.

Double-crested Cormorant. May 15 to May 25; August 20 to November 20, and December 4, at Newburyport, one immature. (As this goes to press Taber reports the first real winter occurrence of the species known, one bird seen by him off Cape Ann, January 29, 1939. This was an apparently adult bird seen at close range with the larger, white-faced Europeans.)

Man-o'-war-bird. May 15, at Nahant, at the height of a severe southerly gale, Emilio, R. Lawson, Foye and Alexander saw this large, attenuated fork-tailed bird, utterly strange to all of us but unmistakably *Fregata*, as it careened in the mild hurricane some distance from shore. There were Gannets and Gulls a-wing nearby for comparison.

Great Blue Heron. One wintering bird at Newburyport, February 2. March 23 to June 19; July 3 to December 18. Just what is the status of the mid-June and early July birds I do not know.

American Egret. June 26, at Clark's Pond, Ipswich Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Curtis and the Recorder saw one, the earliest summer date by nearly ten days. The species was frequently observed to September 12.

Little Blue Heron. An adult at West Peabody, seen April 24 by a large group of observers, gives us the earliest spring date on record. Reports for June 4, 11, and 12 are all new late spring dates; August 6 to October 9.

Green Heron. May 1 to October 8.

Black-crowned Night Heron. March 20 to December 4, and December 18. A straggler or two still present in January 1939.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron. May 13, two adults at Plum Island, seen by Warden Safford; and August 1 two birds at Newburyport seen by C. H. Richardson, Jr.

American Bittern. March 27 to December 7.

Least Bittern. May 22 to June 8 and not again reported until September 3. It is, of course, a summer resident, but decidedly rare.

Common Canada Goose. About a dozen wintered in the northern part of the County. Migrants appeared March 2, with a heavy flight to mid-April and six birds still present May 15 at Plum Island; October 2 to December 4 in rather small numbers except from about October 25 to November 3 when there was a fair flight.

American Brant. May 18 to June 1; October 24 to November 26. June 1 is a new late date by five days; several birds were still present then and seen by Curtis at Ipswich.

White-fronted Goose. November 12 near the mouth of the Essex River, B. B. Bancroft, of Salem, a gunner of long experience saw, at some distance, a flock of seventy-five or more Geese. These were small, he says, about two-thirds the size of Canadas, gray, with no black, and they were "cackling." Bancroft is thoroughly familiar with Canadas and Brant, and he has seen Snow Geese, and he stoutly avers this flock was none of those species, but entirely different and as above described. He believes them to have been White-fronted Geese.

Greater Snow Goose. October 22 to December 13. Apparently a large flock of perhaps one hundred and fifty birds dropped into Newburyport harbor about October 15, which was the opening of the gunning season. They were shot at, though protected, and the flock was broken up, with the result that the first group seen from the Plum Island sanctuary by Warden Safford contained twenty-one birds. This flock steadily dwindled and on December 13 only two were left. Two birds which had been shot were recovered by Wardens Hanley and Safford and given to the Peabody Museum of Salem. The head of one and the whole skin of the other was saved. These constitute the first definite records in over eighty years.

Mallard. A few wintered at Newburyport to May 25. The May records of the seventh, eighth, and twenty-fifth are all new late spring dates for the occurrence of supposedly wild birds. September 1, at Wenham, Tousey saw one bird, a new early fall date by three days.

Red-legged Black Duck. There were about seventy-five still present in Newburyport harbor May 25; October 2.

Common Black Duck. March 13 to December 11. Probably a few of this local breeding race also winter.

Gadwall. April 12, when two were seen at Ipswich, is the only spring date; October 27, one a-wing off Plum Island, flying down the shore, identified by Griscom. These are the only records for the year.

- European Widgeon. October 29 to November 16, all from fresh water in the northern part of the County. There were three birds on the latter date.
- Baldpate. September 30 to December 4. November 16, there were twenty in Johnson's Pond, seen by Alexander.
- Pintail. A few wintered; migrants to April 12; August 17 to December 4.
- European Teal. April 10 to April 13 a drake was seen at Clark's Pond with Green-wings by many competent observers.
- Green-winged Teal. Two were seen at Newburyport until February 15; migrants, March 20 to May 1; August 17 to December 4, and three were found in Ipswich by R. Lawson and party after practically all the ponds were frozen.
- Blue-winged Teal. March 20 to November 1. Several pairs again nested in Ipswich and probably Lynnfield; Griscom, I think, is authority for the statement that no equally great flight has appeared in eastern Massachusetts in the fall for nearly sixty years.
- Shoveller. September 5 to November 6. Unusually frequent reports of this locally rare species.
- Wood Duck. March 5, Topsfield, seen by R. Lawson, to October 30. This early date is a new County record by three days.
- Redhead. November 10 and 13, on Plum Island, are the only records of the occurrence of this very rare species. The bird was seen by Warden Brockelbank.
- Ring-necked Duck. A few apparently wintered in the lower Merrimac River and the species was present until April 27, in Haggets Pond, Andover, seen by Alexander. This is a new late spring date by five days; October 2 to November 24.
- Canvasback. The only record in two years is Warden Safford's observation of two at Plum Island, on November 29.
- Greater Scaup Duck. Present to May 27 at Newburyport, when two birds were seen by Alexander. This is a new late spring date by three days. October 1, in rather subnormal numbers to the end of the year.
- Lesser Scaup Duck. There were several early spring reports in addition to which a drake was seen at the Ipswich pumping station as late as June 2 by Griscom and Curtis; October 9 to November 20. Griscom totalled thirty-one seen in the County ponds on November 13.
- American Golden-eye. Present to May 25; October 5, on. The bird was very late in arriving in numbers this fall.

- Barrow's Golden-eye. Scattering reports to March 27; November 11, on. Two drakes have been seen off the Beverly shore, a new station in the Recorder's experience of nearly twenty years with the species.
- Bufflehead. May 1; October 5. Still more common and widely scattered than ever this fall.
- Old Squaw. May 8; October 17. In addition, Perkins reports a female at Ipswich on July 15, a not unprecedented, but very rare occurrence in summer.
- American Eider. There are very few reports at hand. Twenty-five were seen off Rockport on February 22, by C. Robbins and others. The Census party saw forty on December 26, off Cape Ann.
- King Eider. February 16, Rockport, one drake seen by Tousey; March 2, a Duck, by Griscom, and at Newburyport from March 27 to May 7 many observers saw a drake. Until this year the latest spring date was February 22, and the records scarce. The Census party counted eleven off Cape Ann, December 26.
- White-winged Scoter. June 2; August 17. As early as September 8 there was a heavy flight.
- Surf Scoter. June 2; August 25. Griscom estimated eight hundred observed off Plum Island on October 23.
- American Scoter. May 25; August 31. Griscom also estimated eight hundred of this species off Plum Island on October 23—twice as numerous as the White-wings.
- Ruddy Duck. A single spring record, March 20; October 2 to November 20. On the last date Emilio and Alexander counted twenty-two birds in various ponds of the County.
- Hooded Merganser. March 26 to April 15; August 25 to November 20. Nearly as common as last year.
- American Merganser. As usual a few wintered. With the opening of the ponds in March until May 14 when a straggler was seen in the Merrimac by Curtis—a new late date—the species was found in considerable numbers; November 13 to the end of the year. There were ten in salt water off the mouth of the Ipswich River, seen by R. Lawson and others on December 26.
- Red-breasted Merganser. There were several records of summering—perhaps breeding birds. It is one of the commonest winter Ducks from early October to late April.
- Goshawk. Distinctly not a Goshawk year at either end. There are but three reports at hand, January 18, May 1, and De-

cember 26. The May 1 bird was seen at Ipswich by Griscom and gives a new late spring date by nine days.

Sharp-shinned Hawk. Fewer reports than last year. Resident.

Cooper's Hawk. About half as many reported as in recent years. Resident.

Red-tailed Hawk. The records before me indicate no increase in this species either, but the 1938-1939 winter reports are encouraging.

Red-shouldered Hawk. Probably holding its own—but certainly there are fewer reports than in 1936.

Broad-winged Hawk. May 1 to September 10. Scarcely a longer observed season than last year and no more birds reported.

Rough-legged Hawk. Decidedly scarce to March 27; somewhat more common October 2, to the end of the year. While there are a few September records of this bird, October 10 is about as early as they may be seen here so the above date is really exceptionally early.

Bald Eagle. Frequently reported to March 6, then none seen until December 18. Apparently more common than last year but not in nearly the numbers of 1936.

Marsh Hawk. A year-round bird this year with a spring flight about March 20.

Osprey. Exceptionally early, March 27 to May 22 and June 13; July 13, which is also a very early fall migration date, to November 6.

Duck Hawk. January 8 there were two on Plum Island, according to Warden Safford, and one January 18 at West Gloucester, seen by Perkins. The more normal dates range from April 11 to May 24; September 5 to November 19 and again in winter, December 18 at Newburyport.

Pigeon Hawk. There is a March record by M. E. Kelley in Peabody, to May 16; September 18 to November 13.

Sparrow Hawk. Apparently rather an uncommon resident this year.

Ruffed Grouse. Its actual status is not revealed by the observers reporting to me. From May to October none were reported, yet Foye estimates that he saw at least twenty-five in casual observation during one week in early November.

Bob-white. Much the same sort of scant and scattering reports as last year.

Pheasant. The real status, as with the Grouse, is probably not indicated correctly by the very few reports at hand.

King Rail. The only record is of a bird heard by Griscom and Curtis at Lynnfield on May 20.

Clapper Rail. This is a species new to our Annual Lists of the last twenty years. August 19, Gloucester, reported more fully elsewhere in this issue.

Virginia Rail. April 10 to June 4 only; the bird however, is a not uncommon summer resident.

Sora Rail. April 19 to October 19.

Florida Gallinule. May 20 to October 23. Very few reports.

American Coot. March 27 to April 12, a rare bird in spring; October 2 to November 20 and December 18. On the last date, which is certainly late, but not unprecedented, two were seen at Newburyport by Griscom and party. The fall flight was the heaviest we have record of.

Piping Plover. March 27 to September 1. Breeds at Lynn and along the sandy shore north of Cape Ann.

Semipalmated Plover. May 8 to June 2; July 10 to October 23.

Killdeer. March 13 to November 24 and three wintering birds at Marblehead to the end of the year.

Golden Plover. September 6 to October 27. There were forty-two at Ipswich October 2, reported by Curtis.

Black-bellied Plover. May 7 to June 11; August 14 to November 23. There were six on Plum Island on the last date according to Warden Brockelbank.

Ruddy Turnstone. Very few reported. July 21 to September 11.

Woodcock. March 12 to August 27 and November 27. The November 27 bird was a near-casualty of the Thanksgiving storm. Walter Stoddard found the bird which eventually flew off under its own power.

Wilson's Snipe. March 26 to May 1; July 26 to November 1 and December 10.

Hudsonian Curlew. No spring records again this year. July 15 to October 10. In some numbers in mid-August.

Upland Plover. April 16 to September 11 and September 22, both very late dates. There are no reports this year of more than a half dozen birds seen at one time, in contrast to 1936.

Spotted Sandpiper. April 28 to August 25. A widely scattered summer resident, which is usually seen much later in the fall.

Lesser Yellow-legs. May 1, two; May 7, one; and May 25, one, are the spring records this year, all of birds seen at Newburyport; July 4 to October 9 and a straggler with Greater in Newbury, November 20, seen by Emilio and Alexander.

- Knot. August 25 to September 11. Decidedly fewer birds seen than last year.
- Purple Sandpiper. May 18; December 26. Somewhat more numerous off Cape Ann on December 26 than in the last two years.
- Solitary Sandpiper. May 8 to May 22; July 24 to October 9.
- Willet. One was reported at Plum Island, July 6, 7, and 9 which is well outside of any recent period of occurrence. July 30 to September 18, and November 23.
- Greater Yellow-legs. April 15 to June 11; July 2, birds at Rowley and Plum Island, probably summer stragglers rather than very early migrants; July 13 to November 24.
- Pectoral Sandpiper. August 4 to November 15. Fewer reported than for some years.
- White-rumped Sandpiper. May 20 to May 25; September 1 to October 23 and November 23. Relatively few of this species, also, reported.
- Baird's Sandpiper. The only report for the year comes from the mouth of the Saugus River, a bird seen September 23 by K. C. Elkins and C. Robbins.
- Least Sandpiper. May 8 to June 12; July 3 to October 22. On the last date Safford saw one bird at Plum Island, a new late record by nine days.
- Red-backed Sandpiper. Eight were seen at West Gloucester on January 14 by Perkins. May 7 to May 25; October 2 to December 16. There were two reports in mid-summer, of this species. The first was an oiled bird and the second the observer refuses to vouch for the identification. The sub species in both cases was in question.
- Eastern Dowitcher. April 16, Plum Island, Miss Batchelder saw two, a new early date by three days, to May 25; July 3 to August 25. Good flight.
- Long-billed Dowitcher. September 25 to October 30. Four were identified by Tousey on the early date and four by Curtis on the later. Hagar and Curtis report a flock of fifteen at Plum Island October 7 and 8.
- Stilt Sandpiper. August 3 and August 7.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper. May 15 to June 2; July 5 to October 23.
- Western Sandpiper. August 4 to October 23. Two were seen at Plum Island on the later date which is a nine-day extension of the previously known period of occurrence.

Hudsonian Godwit. September 5, Plum Island, F. E. Smith.

Sanderling. There were four seen on Plum Island, January 8 by Garrison and one, January 30 by O. K. Scott. May 15 to May 25; July 19 to December 4.

Red Phalarope. May 15, Lynn, one, R. Lawson. This was during the severe southerly storm raging at that time.

Northern Phalarope. May 15, small flocks along shore; August 3 to August 16. The May date is a new early record by three days.

Pomarine Jaeger. September 22, Plum Island, one, Curtis.

Parasitic Jaeger. May 26 to June 5. There are no summer or fall records at hand.

Glaucous Gull. May 25; November 13. A bird was reported from Lynn on September 4 by Marcy and this was probably a summer straggler such as occurred in 1937 rather than an extremely early migrant.

Iceland Gull. Present in small numbers to May 1; December 11.

Great Black-backed Gull. Resident, as a few pair breed on local islands. Perkins reports seventy-five at Ipswich on July 28, which is about the time a great many birds appear from the north.

Herring Gull. Resident. Abundant, but the Cape Ann Census on December 26 accounted for only seventeen hundred and fifty, against twenty-six hundred last year and three thousand the year before. Banded birds are not seen in this neighborhood for reasons not wholly clear.

Kumlien's Gull. Not infrequently reported, this year occurring as late as March 27; December 11.

Ring-billed Gull. Adult or immature birds are likely to be seen at any time. This year there are no reports for June.

European Black-headed Gull. Newburyport, January 30, Garrison and Brewer saw one bird.

Laughing Gull. April 15, Nahant, two seen by Dickson give us a new early arrival date, to May 25; the only fall record is October 7 from Revere Beach, but this cannot mean the bird is again on the verge of extinction.

Bonaparte's Gull. About the same status as the Ring-billed. There were none reported (but still possibly present) between June 2 and July 4.

Kittiwake. Occasional to March 5; November 27.

Common Tern. A pair was reported from Marblehead April 24, by D. S. Low. This is two weeks earlier than any previously

known local occurrence. The next report, May 7, equalled the previous early date, and the species was observed more or less continuously to October 9, with a lone straggler at Annisquam November 12.

Arctic Tern. May 26 to August 16. There were fifteen pair at Milk Island, some with nests and eggs to which Curtis and Emilio saw the birds return on June 12.

Roseate Tern. May 15 to June 2; July 10 to August 25.

Least Tern. July 20, Ipswich Beach, one, seen by Curtis.

Caspian Tern. April 19 at Plum Island, Miss Grace M. Snow saw this species thus recording a new early date. May 4 was the prior record. September 19, Annisquam, Miss Katherine Tousey.

Black Tern. May 15, Newburyport, one, seen by Curtis and Foster. This is four days earlier than the previous record date. Again observed May 29; August 10 to September 6.

There is an unconfirmed report that a Black Skimmer was seen at Newburyport a few days after the September hurricane.

Razor-billed Auk. Just one observed, Cape Ann, February 6.

Atlantic Murre. February 6, Gloucester, one, seen by J. B. Abbott, Griscom and party.

Brunnich's Murre. Occasional to May 7; November 7 and December 26, one each.

Dovekie. February 27; December 4. Very scarce.

Black Guillemot. March 2; November 27. By far the most regular and on the average, commonest of the alcids.

Rock Dove.

Mourning Dove. April 3 to October 16. They were abundant, in places, during September.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. May 25 to August 21.

Black-billed Cuckoo. May 15 to September 9.

Screech Owl. Resident. Not often reported.

Great Horned Owl. Resident. Surprisingly enough, six were found on the Cape Ann Census, December 26. Not infrequently heard at other times.

Snowy Owl. One remained at Newburyport until May 1. This is nearly two weeks later than any prior date; November 23 on, a fair flight.

Barred Owl. Resident. Heard very frequently in the Boxford woods.

Long-eared Owl. Resident. Most often heard, but both seen and heard November 12 at Annisquam.

Short-eared Owl. There are now sight records of the local occurrence of this species during every month except August. While it is not known to breed here, Griscom reports it from Lynnfield on June 2 and in 1936 he found it on Plum Island, July 8. We know it primarily as a migrant and winter visitor but its precise status is a bit uncertain.

Saw-whet Owl. We have no records for this species from April 10 to July 25. But one wonders what it is doing here July 25, August 2, August 22, and this year August 25. Last year Taber reported seven birds on September 7. We have considered the species a migrant and winter resident. It is possible it breeds here.

Whip-poor-will. May 1 to June 20. August 2 was the latest date reported in 1936, July 7 in 1937, and at the rate the season appears to be shortening we will have only May reports in 1939!

Nighthawk. May 21 to August 25.

Chimney Swift. April 24 to August 25. To the amazement of the Recorder the species survived the torrential rains of early summer.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. May 8 to October 8, and a lone straggler persisted at Mr. Harry Stanley's feeding station until October 29.

Belted Kingfisher. Several wintered. March 20 to November 18, and again wintering.

Northern Flicker. Resident, a good number wintering from 1937. Migrant birds March 13.

Pileated Woodpecker. Occasionally reported by Wolfe and others from Boxford and by Safford at Plum Island, of all places, on October 17.

Red-headed Woodpecker. Two records, an immature at Marblehead, March 20, seen by Caswell, and two on Plum Island, October 17 and 18, seen by Safford.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. May 1, Lynn, Taber and Stackpole is the only spring record. September 25 to October 10. Scarce this year.

Hairy Woodpecker. Resident and decidedly rare this year.

Downy Woodpecker. Resident.

Eastern Kingbird. April 27, Lynn, Miss Snow. This is a new early date by one day. Regularly observed to August 25 and a very late straggler September 24, at Nahant, seen by K. C. Elkins.

Arkansas Kingbird. September 19, Plum Island, and November 12, Topsfield.

Crested Flycatcher. May 6 to June 20—and then neglected like the Whip-poor-will and other summer residents.

Phoebe. March 21 to October 11..

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. May 22 to May 28. A very rarely seen migrant.

Alder Flycatcher. May 22 to August 25.

Least Flycatcher. April 28 to June 20.

Wood Pewee. May 19 to September 20.

Olive-sided Flycatcher. May 21 to May 28. The Recorder can account for at least five birds seen along the Ipswich during the River Trip. This is extraordinary as the bird was only recorded on those trips but once before in thirty years, and that was last year.

Northern Horned Lark. April 3; October 9. There was a noticeable migration on March 20. The species was subnormal in numbers during the fall.

Prairie Horned Lark. March 13 to November 24. The November date is not unprecedented, but decidedly late. The record, however, is credible even though of a sub species, for both races show the maximum amount of yellow in the fall and any bird distinctly *lacking* yellow is necessarily the Prairie. The situation is reversed in late winter and spring when the yellow tips of many feathers have worn away leaving the white under color exposed. Then all one can be sure of is the identity of the northern race, indicated by the *presence* of yellow. Many of this race then appear quite white on the fall yellow areas, and have been mistaken for flocks of Prairies, hereabouts. Such flocks simply do not occur, as far as we know.

Tree Swallow. March 19 to August 25. On the later date there were great numbers at Ipswich and some birds undoubtedly stayed later but if observed no one reported them.

Bank Swallow. May 1 to August 25. In contrast to the Tree Swallows, only one was seen on the late date, and it is doubtless true, that following the extraordinarily early spring, the southward migration was also earlier than usual.

Rough-winged Swallow. April 24 to June 18. These birds seem to drop out of sight very early nearly every year. Only a few pair are known to breed in the County.

Barn Swallow. April 24 to September 14. In spite of the early spring this bird did not appear ahead of its usual time.

Cliff Swallow. April 24 to July 21 and September 11. None were reported between the two later dates.

Purple Martin. May 1 and 15. In all, five birds.

Blue Jay. Resident. Returns more nearly to normal from the abundance of last year. The Cape Ann Census records twenty as against one hundred and twenty in 1937.

In the Recorder's files, which are all inclusive, there is an account of an alleged occurrence of three Ravens at Ipswich, September 28. The observers were armed with a pair of glasses, admittedly approached very close, but failed to report—if observed—the two or three characteristics, besides size, which distinguish this species from our Common Crow. The day was foggy!

Crow. Resident. This species also far less numerous December 26 than in 1937 or 1936.

Black-capped Chickadee. Resident. Another species far below the numbers of the last two years, at least on the Cape Ann Census. Only one hundred and seventy were counted.

Mark E. Kelley at Peabody on March 1, saw three out of twenty-two Chickadees which were "apparently Brown-caps." With the observer himself no more positive than that, we venture to consider the occurrence only hypothetical. The species, so far as we know, is exceedingly rare hereabouts, and if present is likely to be generally—if sparsely—distributed.

White-breasted Nuthatch. Resident. Much less common than last year.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Remarkably abundant to May 18; September 11 on, scarce to rare.

Brown Creeper. April 30; October 2. Still another bird much less common than last year on the Christmas Census.

House Wren. April 24, Lynn, Emilio and party, a new early spring date, to October 11.

Winter Wren. April 6, a very early, and the only spring record this year; September 18 to November 11.

Prairie Marsh Wren. May 1 to October 9.

Short-billed Marsh Wren. May 1 to August 17.

Mockingbird. August 14, Gloucester, August 21 to 23, two, on Plum Island, November 6. Annisquam. It is rather surprising how often this southern bird occurs here.

- Catbird. Wintered in Beverly to January 23. May 1 to October 31, and December 26, one. The wintering is not unprecedented.
- Brown Thrasher. April 15, Marblehead, D. S. Low, a new early migrant date by nine days, to October 22.
- Robin. A few wintered as usual. Migrants March 13 to about December 1 and a few stragglers reported since.
- Wood Thrush. May 1 to August 25. There is before me a report of a bird seen April 15. The observer may be correct, and of course he thinks he is, but I am unable to give a full degree of credibility to the report.
- Hermit Thrush. One wintering bird observed January 30 at Gloucester. March 13 to November 9.
- Olive-backed Thrush. May 20 and May 22; September 25 and October 2. Rather few reports for this fairly common bird.
- Gray-cheeked Thrush. May 20, 21, and 22.
- Bicknell's Thrush. May 21, Plum Island, one, Safford. Strangely enough this is two days earlier than any other spring record; August 25, Boxford, Griscom and Emilio and this is far earlier than any fall date.
- Veery. May 8 to July 4. A very sadly neglected summer resident species.
- Bluebird. Wintered at Andover. March 12 to November 5, and again wintering at Ipswich, or at least observed there in January 1939.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet. April 24; September 25. Notably abundant in early fall. A marked migration was observed April 13 and 14.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet. April 13 to May 22; September 25 to October 10.
- Pipit. October 5 to December 4. Except a date of January 4, 1878, we have no other record of occurrence after November 22.
- Cedar Waxwing. Technically a resident, winter and early spring appearances are rather uncommon. Seen in January, March and April. Common from May 21 to October 9.
- Northern Shrike. Fairly common to March 26; December 4 and December 26. Obviously scarce this winter.
- Migrant Shrike. October 7 and October 12. As always, a rare bird.
- Starling. Abundant resident. Twelve hundred were seen on the Cape Ann Census against eighteen hundred two years ago and nine hundred last year.

- Yellow-throated Vireo. May 1 to May 22. The bird is now a rare summer resident and should be present four months beyond the above later date.
- Blue-headed Vireo. April 17, Hamilton, one, Emilio and party, a new early date by two days, to June 20. The expected occurrence of this bird is five months longer.
- Red-eyed Vireo. May 7 to October 2.
- Philadelphia Vireo. October 2, Newburyport, one, a fine adult seen by Emilio. This is a new late fall date by three days.
- Warbling Vireo. May 7 to July 4.
- Black and White Warbler. April 24 to August 25.
- Golden-winged Warbler. April 28, Lynn, Miss Batchelder, a new early date by five days, to August 20.
- Brewster's Warbler. May 9, Lynn, F. R. Burrill, to May 26. This is a new bird for the County List, if we wish to ignore its hybrid origin. At least three were seen by various observers in the above period.
- Tennessee Warbler. May 15 and May 18. Another rare migrant species.
- Nashville Warbler. May 1 to August 25 and October 2.
- Parula Warbler. May 1 to May 25; September 22 is the only fall date at hand—the day *after* the hurricane.
- Yellow Warbler. May 1 to September 22. Another survivor.
- Magnolia Warbler. May 6 to May 25; September 22 (and another) to September 26. The last, was a bird killed in migration by striking the chimney of the Arlington Mills in Lawrence, reported by Collins.
- Cape May Warbler. May 8 to May 21; August 25 is the only fall record.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler. April 25, Marblehead, seen by Caswell, a new early date by five days, to May 25; September 11 and October 5.
- Myrtle Warbler. Winter resident and migrant to May 22; September 23, several were found dead after the hurricane. There was a wave observed September 26, and again November 11.
- Audubon's Warbler. This is a new bird for the County List, though it has been on the Hypothetical List since Safford saw one at Plum Island, in April 1935. A dead bird was found January 2, 1939 in the dunes at Ipswich by Emilio and Foye, thawing somewhat from having been frozen solid, and unquestionably dead for more than a day or two, so I include it

as having actually occurred in 1938. The specimen was saved and mounted by Burrill. It is on exhibition at the Peabody Museum, Salem.

Black-throated Green Warbler. April 20 to September 26. Like the Magnolia, Collins found a dead bird at the base of a mill chimney in Lawrence on the later date.

Cerulean Warbler. May 8, Lynn, Miss Batchelder, to May 11 when it was collected for the Peabody Museum. State records are few and this, of course, is a new bird for the County. It was an adult male. There is an unconfirmed record of a bird seen by Moulton nearly twenty years ago on September 28.

Blackburnian Warbler. April 28, Lynn, Smith, a new early date by six days, to September 25.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. May 1, Essex County, five birds, Emilio and party, a new early date by one day, to August 25.

Bay-breasted Warbler. May 7, Beverly, adult male, Emilio and party, another new early date by four days, to May 25; August 25 is the only fall record.

Black-poll Warbler. May 7 to May 25; September 10 to October 16.

Pine Warbler. April 12 to May 8, and that is the last report of this summer resident warbler at hand. Present probably, for the ensuing five months.

Prairie Warbler. April 28, Lynn, Smith, another new early record by two days, to June 20. Still another neglected summer resident.

Western Palm Warbler. September 23 to October 9. Scarce.

Yellow Palm Warbler. April 12 to May 9; October 2 to November 20.

Ovenbird. May 1 to August 25.

Northern Water Thrush. May 7 to May 25. No fall birds reported.

Kentucky Warbler. May 21, Middleton, M. E. Kelley and Giles. This identification is probably correct but in the complete absence of a local specimen and in consideration of the fact that the bird is not very easily identified and was wholly unfamiliar in life to the observers, it seems best to list it with the Hypotheticals.

Connecticut Warbler. May 10, Lynn, one, Ralph and F. B. Lawson, a new early date by three days. The species is almost a pure accidental in spring as its normal migration route northward is not up the Atlantic coast. It has been seen too many

times by competent observers to consider these spring occurrences as merely hypothetical. September 9 to September 25.

Mourning Warbler. May 21, Nahant, and May 22, Plum Island.

A very rare bird.

Northern Yellow-throat. April 30 to September 23 and November 1, Essex, Perkins. This is not a new late date as there are December records.

Yellow-breasted Chat. May 22 to about July 1. There was one, or a pair of birds, in Beverly during this time. The area where they have been for several years is now to be cleared and developed for house lots.

Hooded Warbler. May 21 to 24, Plum Island, a female and then a male, seen by Safford. This is another Austral overshoot in this spring's extraordinary migration.

Wilson's Warbler. May 15 to May 25; September 9, Manchester and Marblehead, are the only fall records.

Canada Warbler. May 7 to September 9. A scarce summer resident.

Redstart. May 7 to September.

English Sparrow. Only a third as many as last year reported by the Census party, December 26.

Bobolink. May 7 to August 25. Certainly no increase in numbers.

Meadowlark. Resident. March 13 to November 13 in numbers. A surprising number—forty-seven—recorded on the Christmas Census.

Red-wing. March 13 to November 20. In addition there was a flock of Blackbirds numbering about thirty-five, some, and perhaps all, being Red-wings, in Danvers on December 18, and Ralph Lawson and party found one in Ipswich, December 26.

Orchard Oriole. May 18, Nahant, immature male seen by Curtis, and May 21, Newbury, a male in song, seen and heard by Garrison, exactly the same place as last year.

Baltimore Oriole. April 14, Peabody, Walter Stoddard saw a male, a new early spring date by over two weeks. The next report was May 2, to September 4.

Rusty Blackbird. March 20 to May 21; October 9 to November 13.

Occasionally from Boston southward a Grackle is seen showing some of the feather colors characteristic of the Purple Grackle. Caswell saw such a bird on April 16 at Marblehead in a small flock of normal Bronzed. This, if I understand the situation

correctly, was at best an intergrade or perhaps more correctly a hybrid between the two species, and not to be considered a Purple Grackle at all.

Bronzed Grackle. At least one wintering bird at Newburyport seen February 12. March 13 to November 20 and a few stragglers to December 7.

Cowbird. March 20 to December 1.

Scarlet Tanager. May 8 to June 20. Still another absurdly incomplete record of occurrence.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. May 7 to July 7.

Indigo Bunting. May 8 to August 25. There is a continuing increase in this bird's numbers.

Purple Finch. Resident. To the Recorder, this bird seems scarcer and scarcer every year.

Pine Grosbeak. January 9 and February 21.

Common Redpoll. February 21 and March 4; November 29 and December 11. One or a few birds in each instance.

Pine Siskin. Completely missing until November 1, and very few thereafter.

Goldfinch. Resident.

Red Crossbill. March 27 to May 15, Topsfield and mainly Lynn, a flock of about twenty-five at the maximum.

Towhee. April 14, Marblehead, D. S. Low, a new early spring migrant date by three days, to October 9.

Ipswich Sparrow. Wintering to March 27; October 23. As always a scarce migrant and rare winter resident.

Eastern Savannah Sparrow. March 20 to November 11, and December 26, two birds seen on the Cape Ann Census.

Grasshopper Sparrow. May 8, Boxford, Emilio, a new early date by one day, to July 21 and the extraordinarily late occurrence of October 9, again in Boxford, Griscom and party. This is a full month beyond the next latest date.

Henslow's Sparrow. July 19, west end of the Newburyport township, S. A. Eliot, Jr. found a male in song. The same bird—at least in the same place—was seen and heard on July 21 by Griscom and Emilio and August 4 by Curtis. One of the rarest Sparrows on the list.

Acadian Sparrow. May 29 and June 2; October 9, Plum Island, six birds, seen by Griscom and party, is the only fall record of this transient.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow. May 25 to June 2, in numbers on the later date, but unreported subsequently.

Vesper Sparrow. March 20 to October 16:

Lark Sparrow. October 23, Lynnfield, N. P. Hill and party.

Junco. May 1; September 25.

Tree Sparrow. April 17; October 23. Twice as many on the Cape Ann Census as in 1936 or 1937.

Chipping Sparrow. April 13 to October 16. M. E. Kelley reports an obvious decrease after the July rains.

October 9, on the railroad track at Lynnfield, Griscom, Emilio and a large party saw a strange Sparrow somewhat resembling a Chipping, but certainly not that species. This may have been, as it was thought to be, a Clay-colored Sparrow but the occurrence can be considered at best hypothetical.

Field Sparrow. March 27 to October 23.

Harris's Sparrow. Extraordinary as is the appearance of this species here it will have to be given a place in the list. Unlike the Clay-colored it is very easily identified. April 30, two came to the banding station of the Fosters' in Topsfield (near the Ipswich line). The Recorder was notified and arranged to go to see them if they should again appear. In the fall of 1932 a bird appeared at a banding station in Andover.

White-crowned Sparrow. April 29, Plum Island, Safford, a new early spring date except March 25, to May 22; October 2 to October 27.

White-throated Sparrow. Many wintered. Migrants April 24 to May 22; September 22 to October 30, and again wintering in very limited numbers.

Fox Sparrow. March 15 to April 13; November 11 to the end of the year. A small and late fall flight and a good number wintering.

Lincoln's Sparrow. May 18 to May 25. Rare as always.

Swamp Sparrow. A few wintered. April 3 to October 23 and again a few wintering.

Song Sparrow. Resident. Migrants from March 13, with a heavy flight March 20 to 22.

Lapland Longspur. Present to March 5; October 9 to November 24. None reported the last six weeks of the year.

Snow Bunting. Present to March 2; October 23 to end of the year.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS
TO
"A LIST OF THE BIRDS OF ESSEX COUNTY"
S. G. EMILIO

IN the 1931 issue of this *Bulletin*, the late Mr. A. P. Stubbs, then the Club's Recorder, and the present writer compiled a list of the Birds of Essex County, numbering three hundred and thirty-six forms. We appended thereto a Supplementary List, of twenty-eight forms, which included the extinct and extirpated species and those of doubtful or hypothetical occurrence.

It was stated at the time that ". . . we do not presume to pass judgement on sight records of primal occurrence here and prefer to follow the wholly arbitrary but entirely fair, practical and not unscientific plan of accepting no such sight records. . ."

It was also stated that "this area (400 square miles), though small, is sufficiently large and diverse and has been searched enough to make adherence to this standard reasonable."

I wish, at this time, to modify that standard in two particulars. In the first place when a political subdivision, be it large or small, lies within the already known wandering range of a species, a specimen should not be necessary to establish a record of primal occurrence. Such a record is of little—if any—scientific consequence, for it does not extend the bird's known range and cannot raise the bird's status above the casual or accidental level, in the general area in which the political subdivision lies.

In the second place, while I am still quite unwilling "to pass judgement on sight records of primal occurrence here"—or anywhere else—it is quite possible to evade part of that unwelcome task by requiring, at least, two experienced observers to pass judgement on each other right on the spot and at the time of observation. The unsupported testimony of one person can hardly be accepted as scientific proof but when two or more agree regarding a field identification which is not difficult to make, such testimony can hardly be brushed aside. Usually, though not always, specific identification afield is quite possible. But in the event of any really difficult specific diagnosis and of all attempts at sub-specific identification, primal sight records are entirely unacceptable, regardless of the experience or reputation of the observers.

Among the three hundred and thirty-six forms in the 1931 list are the Pink-footed Goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus* Baillon, and the Nelson's Sparrow, *Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni* (Allen). The

Goose was originally recorded in the literature by Dr. J. C. Phillips and Mr. E. H. Forbush. Both expressed doubt that it was a wild bird. Both, from an examination of its feet, felt there was some, if not conclusive evidence of its having been recently in captivity. It would have been better, under the circumstances, to have omitted it from the County List in 1931. I now consider the occurrence of the species only hypothetical and place it in the Supplementary List. The Sparrow also should be removed from the County List. As I understand it, no local specimen of this race of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow is now recognized in any collection. The bird should be omitted altogether.

These two eliminations leave the County List at three hundred and thirty-four.

There are several corrections to the nomenclature or status of occurrence which may be mentioned here.

The Long-billed Dowitcher, whether it is a species or a subspecies, should no longer be considered merely an accidental. It is now recognized as a rare fall transient. This is based largely on field identification of a bird not too easy to identify, but specimens of these late fall Dowitchers have been taken, wholly confirming both their identity and status, which is now beyond question as above given.

The Western Willet falls into much the same category. Griscom states the case as follows "Status in earlier decades unknown, due to hopeless confusion with eastern race. All existing fall specimens from the County belong to this race. A decidedly rare migrant from 1880-1930. In recent years recorded annually, but very irregular in numbers; positively common in 1934, when one observer saw 55 individuals."

There are several nomenclatural changes to be noted. Our Canadian Pine Grosbeak formerly known as *Pinicola enucleator leucura* (Müller) becomes *Pinicola enucleator eschatosus* Oberholser. At the same time a more northern race which we may call the Hudsonian, is recognized by Griscom who restricts the name *leucura* to it. Both races are represented by County specimens.

Griscom has also revised the Crossbills in an extremely interesting and scholarly monograph published in the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, Volume 41, Number 5. Our Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra pusilla* Gloger, becomes *Loxia curvirostra neogaea* Griscom, the Newfoundland race known as *perdua* Bent, becomes *pusilla* Gloger, and a third from, heretofore unknown from the County formerly called *sitkensis* Grinnell, now

appears in our list as *Loxia curvirostra minor* (Brehm). This last is based on a specimen, in the Peabody Museum of Salem, which was taken March 8, 1899 in Lynn. It is a bird from the far northwest, as its prior scientific and present common name, Sitka Crossbill, would indicate.

We reduced the County List to three hundred and thirty-four. It remains now to add thereto twenty-three forms. Thirteen of these appeared in the Supplementary List of 1931 and the remaining ten, including the above mentioned Grosbeak and Crossbill are entirely new to the County, except the Kumlien's Gull which has long been observed hereabouts but was excluded in 1931 on the ground of its believed hybrid origin.

Let us take up in systematic order twenty-three additions to the County List.

The sight records of the Western Grebe in the extreme eastern part of the United States as I know them are: 1916, May 21, Long Island, New York; 1922, May 30, Ipswich, Massachusetts; 1934, December 15, Connecticut River, in Massachusetts; 1936, February 29, Connecticut River, in Massachusetts; 1936, December 16, Newburyport, Massachusetts; 1937, March 27 to April 17, Newburyport, Massachusetts, two; 1937, May 9, Nahant, Massachusetts; 1937, December 26, Newburyport, Massachusetts; 1939, January 1, Dukes County, Massachusetts.

In addition, a specimen was taken near Charleston, South Carolina, 22 June 1936, as recorded in *The Auk* thus establishing beyond question the Atlantic Coast of North America as within the birds' wandering range.

So, for our local County List we now have an utterly unmistakable species whose wandering range has been proved to reach the Atlantic Coast and which has been seen by many more than two competent observers, not only here but in other parts of Massachusetts. We still lack, however, a specimen from this County, and, as a matter of fact, for all New England. This is the first addition I make to the County List.

The Brown Pelican has been tossed around rather badly. Townsend in 1905, considered its occurrence here "doubtful." In 1920 he placed it in the regular County List—on the same evidence. In 1931 Stubbs and I put it back in the doubtful category and now it is brought up again to the regular list.

It was relegated to the Hypothetical List in 1931 solely on the ground of there being no specimen from the County. There is, however, a specimen from Hampton Beach, New Hampshire,

taken May 1, 1907. This is so absurdly close to our northern County boundary—perhaps seven miles—that the bird might well have been listed on the basis of that occurrence alone.

The Man-o'-war-bird or Frigate-bird is an accidental straggler from the tropics. There are two records from Maine and one from Quebec so this County lies well within its known wandering range. It is as unmistakable as the Grebe and the Pelican—instantly identifiable. It would be expected to appear—if at all—on the wings, so to speak, of a storm of the tropical hurricane type, moving up the Atlantic Coast. That was exactly the condition which prevailed on May 15, 1938, when the writer with Lawson, Foye and Alexander saw the bird off Nahant.

The Eastern Glossy Ibis is another tropical or sub-tropical wanderer. There are half a dozen Massachusetts specimens, one from New Hampshire and one from Maine. The last closely parallels the 1938 appearance in this County.

So again we have a bird well within its known wandering range, identifiable with the utmost ease. The earlier occurrence, May 21, 1932, is vouched for by no less an authority than Roger T. Peterson and, as set forth in the 1935 *Bulletin*, many competent observers saw the later pair at Plum Island.

The Greater Snow Goose was listed by Townsend in 1905 as "long since extirpated" and in 1920 simply as "extirpated." In 1931 it was stated in this *Bulletin*, that no specimens had been recorded "in the last seventy years." That little matter has now been remedied and two adults, out of a flock alleged to have numbered one hundred and fifty appearing in mid-October at Newburyport, have gravitated to the Peabody Museum of Salem, as elsewhere recorded in more detail.

The European Teal has not yet been taken in this County. There are records substantiated by specimens, however, from Maine, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Virginia and North Carolina. The drake is easily and certainly identified in the field, and it has been seen in close proximity to Green-wings by Griscom, F. H. Allen, Taber, and the writer among others. It cannot with reason be denied a place in the County List.

The Sandhill Crane is another allegedly extirpated transient visitor that refuses to stay away all the time. Three birds were reported seen and heard in Essex County October 6, 1920; again, three were seen October 11, 1933 flying over Danvers; and finally Warden Safford who certainly is familiar with the Great Blue Heron and can be counted on not to call one a Crane, saw one

bird a-wing over Plum Island, October 9, 1937 which he believed was a Sandhill Crane. Two, at least, of these three sight records I consider highly credible. The Lynnfield bird of 1889 recorded in this *Bulletin* for 1925 by Stubbs seems to me also worthy of confidence. In any event we are not attempting to establish a primal record for the region without a specimen. These are recurrences of an extirpated migratory bird which Forbush in 1925 prophesied might appear again as an accidental straggler. That, in this writer's opinion, is precisely the status of the bird here, and as such it belongs in the County List.

The Eskimo Curlew was thought to be extinct in 1931 and hence it was placed in the Supplementary List. It was not known then and it is not known now that none of the species survive. In fact there is some evidence quite to the contrary. In any event it simply will not do to have someone walk in with a freshly killed specimen of an "extinct" bird so it should be placed in the regular County List.

The Skua has not been taken in the County. It is known to wander to this general region and there are two credible sight records. On February 19, 1928, the late Charles A. Urner, Ludlow Griscom and the writer saw this bird at Rockport. It resembles a young Herring Gull, but exactly as in the case of the Booby we detected an intangible difference at distance and not until we noticed the light area in each wing at the base of the primaries did we appreciate just what the trouble was. The bird is identifiable and two, at least, of the three observers may safely be considered competent field men! Under the circumstance I now consider the species properly belongs in the County List.

Kumlien's Gull: Recent field work in the north has indicated that this is a biologically pure form and *not* a hybrid as assumed in the A.O.U. list. Hence it should appear in the regular County List. As a hybrid it was omitted entirely from all lists in 1931 by Stubbs and Emilio.

The Little Gull from Europe is known on this side of the Atlantic as an accidental visitor. While it is not utterly unmistakable it is fairly easy to identify under favorable conditions. Thrice, at least, those conditions have occurred and I list it with the birds of the County on field identifications by John H. Conkey, Ludlow Griscom, Dr. Richard Tousey, myself and others.

We now have a specimen of the Nelson's Downy Woodpecker, discovered by Griscom in the Jeffries collection. This of course puts this northern form in the County List.

Similarly, in the collections of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Griscom found an example of the Northern Hairy Woodpecker.

The Greenland Wheatear is in the same category as the Little Gull, but more easily identified. There are two credible sight records, and I add the bird to the County List as an Accidental.

Nor have we a specimen of the Blue-winged Warbler, but it occurs as a breeding bird within one hundred miles and as an occasional straggler much closer than that. It is readily identified and the sight records given by Townsend in 1920, and that of Maurice Broun seem sufficient to justify its inclusion in the County List.

Until 1935 we had not even a sight record of the Audubon's Warbler. That spring Mr. Safford saw a fine adult male at Plum Island as recorded in this *Bulletin* for that year. Now, there is a specimen as recorded in the list for 1938 in this issue. I have found extremely few dead passerine birds afield and to run across a dead specimen of this rarest of accidentals in New England was most astonishing.

The Cerulean Warbler is another of the rare occurrences of this most extraordinary year, 1938. The specimen taken in Lynn, now reposes in the Peabody Museum of Salem.

Nor have we a Yellow-headed Blackbird specimen from the County. It is known however to stray eastward to the Atlantic Coast and the adult male is utterly unmistakable by the most inexperienced observer. We have two wholly credible sight records, and as I see it do not have to establish a primal occurrence in this general region. Under the circumstance it belongs in the County List.

The Blue Grosbeak has a somewhat different status. The Indigo Bunting does resemble it, which may account for some of the extraordinary number of New England sight records. And it is true that a large number of the alleged occurrences seem to be reported by people who have a rather limited reputation as students of ornithology but there is just enough of a sprinkling of well-known people, such as Dr. C. W. Townsend and Mr. F. H. Kennard to make one wonder if perhaps all the reports are not, in fact, correct.

There are at least three credible sight records of this Grosbeak for the County and a comparatively recent specimen has been taken on Cape Cod. Nor is it possible to disregard entirely the mass of evidence of its occurrence in southern Maine. This County, then, lies in the known wandering—I might almost say

breeding—range of the species, hence we are attempting to establish no primal record. Dr. Townsend had the bird at his feeding shelf off and on for two days, and thereby supplies a credible sight record. The species as an accidental or casual visitor belongs in the County List.

The Dickcissel is another allegedly extirpated species that won't stay that way. There are no recent specimens but the bird is quite unmistakable and in the case of the Ipswich bird, of a few years ago, was seen by upward of two hundred people who went there on purpose to see it. It is a mere accidental visitor here as stated in 1931 but it belongs in the County List as such, regardless of recent specimens or alleged extirpation.

There are specimens from the County of the far northern race of the Pine Grosbeak to which the name *leucura* has recently been given by Griscom as above mentioned. This is a new form for the County List. It may be designated the Hudsonian Pine Grosbeak, distinct from the commoner more southern race we know as the Canadian which now rejoices in the scientific name *eschatosus*.

And finally we come to the twenty-third and last addition to the County List. This is the Sitka Crossbill, now known as *Loxia curvirostra minor* (Brehm). Both the Crossbill and Pine Grosbeak were discussed at length in the opening paragraphs.

There follows, in exactly the form of presentation of the 1931 Stubbs and Emilio list, these twenty-three additions to that list. And finally the present Supplementary List complete, this being as before, the extinct, extirpated and hypothetical forms.

ADDITIONS TO THE COUNTY LIST

Western Grebe, *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (Lawrence). 1.

Accidental from the West. March 27, 1937, Newburyport, two birds, seen by scores of observers to April 17; May 9, 1937, Nahant, Emilio, Lawson *et al*; May 30, 1922, Ipswich, Emilio; December 16, 1936, Newburyport, F. H. Allen, W. M. Tyler, J. A. Hagar, and December 26, 1937, Newburyport, Mr. and Mrs. Elkins.

Brown Pelican, *Pelecanus occidentalis* L. 126.

Accidental from the South. 1867? two seen at Ipswich by J. F. LeBaron; June 7, 1922, Ipswich, four seen by C. J. Maynard *et al*. An extra-limital record is the specimen taken at Hampton Beach, New Hampshire, May 1, 1907, as recorded in *The Auk*, Vol. xxx.

Man-o'-War-Bird, *Fregata magnificens*, Mathews. 128.

Accidental from the West Indies etc. Seen May 15, 1938, Nahant, Emilio, Lawson, Foye, and Alexander.

Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus* (L.). 186.

Accidental from the South. Seen April 28 to May 19, 1935, two birds, by Safford, Griscom, Emilio, and scores of observers; also May 21, 1932, Ipswich, R. T. Peterson.

Greater Snow Goose, *Chen atlantica* Kennard. 169a.

Casual (fall?) transient from the westward, probably in flocks. April; October 15 to December 13. Two specimens recovered within a few miles of Newburyport, about November 1, 1938, by Wardens Hanley and Safford. The head of one and complete mounted skin of the other, now in the Peabody Museum. Measurements almost identical, wing 439 mm., 432 mm.; culmen, 63 mm., 62 mm.; depth of bill, 37 mm., 36 mm. These birds were both adults, the larger sexed as a male.

European Teal, *Nettion crecca* (L.). 138.

Casual or accidental visitor. Seen March 20, 1935, Newburyport, F. H. Allen and Ludlow Griscom—at close range; April 10–13, 1938, Ipswich, Emilio, Griscom, Taber, and many others; November 22, 1931, West Newbury, Griscom and others. All drakes.

Sandhill Crane, *Grus canadensis tabida* (Peters). 206.

Accidental straggler in (fall?) migration, from the West. Late September 1889, Lynnfield, bird shot and eaten after identification by two gunners familiar with the species in the West (See this *Bulletin*, 1925); seen October 6, 1920, three birds, reported to Forbush; October 9, 1937, Plum Island, Safford; October 11, 1933, Danvers, three birds, Henry Otis.

Eskimo Curlew, *Phaeopus borealis* (Forster). 266.

Formerly abundant fall migrant coastwise. August 24 to September 15. Now nearing extinction. Last known County specimen, August 27, 1908.

Northern Skua, *Catharacta skua* Brünnich. 35.

Accidental from northeastward. Seen, September 17, 1878, Ipswich Bay, R. L. Newcomb (the "bad boy" of an Arctic expedition); February 19, 1928, Rockport, C. A. Urner, Griscom, and Emilio.

Kumlien's Gull, *Larus kumlieni* Brewster. 45.

Uncommon to rare winter visitor, October 27, 1909, J. L. Peters, Plum Island, to May 19, 1936, Griscom, Newburyport.

Little Gull, *Larus minutus* Pallas. 60.1.

Accidental from Europe. Seen June 7, 1934, Lynn, Griscom and J. H. Conkey; Plum Island, July 28, 1935, Griscom and Tudor Richards; August 31, 1935, Newburyport, Dr. and Mrs. Tousey, Emilio, and Southack.

Northern Hairy Woodpecker, *Dryobates villosus septentrionalis* (Nuttall). 393a.

Accidental from the North. Ipswich, January 12, 1919, specimen in M. C. Z. (See 1935 *Bulletin*, p. 6.)

Nelson's Downy Woodpecker, *Dryobates pubescens nelsoni* Oberholser. 394d.

Accidental winter visitor from the northwestward. Lynnfield, December 28, 1875, Jeffries Collection. Specimen determined by Griscom at M. C. Z. and given to the Peabody Museum of Salem.

Greenland Wheatear, *Oenanthe oenanthe* (L.). 765a.

Accidental from the North. Seen January 27, 1929, Nahant, J. H. Conkey; September 17, 1910, Rockport, C. R. Lamb.

Blue-winged Warbler, *Vermivora pinus* (L.). 641.

Accidental visitor from the southward. Seen May 12, 1928, Lynn, adult male, Maurice Broun; September 1 and 15, 1913, Manchester, Miss E. D. Boardman.

Audubon's Warbler, *Dendroica auduboni* (J. K. Townsend). 656.

Accidental from the far west. Bird in the flesh found dead January 2, 1939, Ipswich, Emilio and Foye; seen, April 28, 1935, Plum Island, Safford.

Cerulean Warbler, *Dendroica cerulea* (Wilson). 658.

Accidental from the southwestward. May 9 to 11, 1938, Lynn, adult male, Miss Ruth Batchelder and others, specimen now in Peabody Museum of Salem; probably seen, September 28, 1921, Lynn, C. E. Moulton.

Yellow-headed Blackbird, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (Bonap.). 497.

Accidental from the far west. Seen, September 17, 1917, Ipswich, in female plumage, F. B. White; Miss Dorothy Jenkins saw an adult male near Danvers, about 1930.

Blue Grosbeak, *Guiraca caerulea* (L.). 597.

Accidental or casual visitor from the southwestward. Seen, May 31, 1936, Topsfield, J. D. Phillips; July 3 and 4, 1928, Ipswich, Dr. C. W. Townsend; September 23, 1921, Danvers, immature male, Emilio.

Dickcissel, *Spiza americana* (Gmelin). 604.

Formerly a rare summer resident, May through September, now of casual or only accidental occurrence. Seen January 5 to April 19, Ipswich, at feeding station of Mrs. J. F. Dubois, by nearly *two hundred* different observers. There are other comparatively recent sight records including an alleged nesting in 1927.

Hudsonian Pine Grosbeak, *Pinicola enucleator leucura* (Müller). 515.

Very rare winter visitor. December 17, 1875, Salem, E. Reeves, specimen in Peabody Museum, Salem, and February 18, 1934, Beverly, J. A. Griswold, Jr., specimen in M. C. Z.

Newfoundland Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra pusilla* Gloger. 521b.

A very irregular, but at times numerous visitor. May 16, 1932, Topsfield, adult female, Mrs. Samuel Conley, specimen in Peabody Museum of Salem.

Sitka Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra minor* (Brehm). 521c.

Casual, probably only accidental from the far west. March 8, 1899, Lynn, R. O. Wentworth Collection, an adult male, Peabody Museum, Salem, determined by Griscom.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST

Pacific Loon, *Gavia arctica pacifica* (Lawrence).

There have been reported many field identifications allegedly of this species between November 8 and February 10. Very probably some of them are correct but the bird is really difficult to identify in winter plumage and is retained in the Hypothetical List until a specimen is secured in the County.

Cory's Shearwater, *Puffinus diomedea borealis* Cory.

This bird was first observed in County waters September 19, 1936, at Nahant. In the lone observer's opinion and my own, this is a bird for the Hypothetical List.

White-bellied Booby, *Sula leucogaster* (Bodd.).

Allegedly seen October 9, 1938, off Plum Island. It is debatable whether to include this bird even as an hypothetical. An account of the observation is given in the 1938 List.

Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula* (Molina).

Mr. E. O. Damon asserts that a specimen long labelled (and hence credited to) Northampton was actually shot near the mouth of the Parker River in Newbury of this County. There

is obviously enough question about the matter to leave the bird in the Hypothetical List.

Wood Ibis, *Mycteria americana* Linnaeus.

A specimen was alleged to have been taken at Georgetown, June 19, 1880. "The authenticity of the alleged capture (by an untrustworthy person) has since been investigated with care without eliciting any evidence to impeach the record. Under the circumstances we feel the bird belongs in the Hypothetical List.

Mute Swan, *Sthenelides olor* (Gmelin).

A lone bird of this species appeared in Salem harbor in April, 1932, and was seen by two members of this Club. As its status as a wild bird is uncertain it should remain in the Hypothetical List.

Pink-footed Goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus* Baillon.

This bird is relegated to the Hypothetical List because of some—if not conclusive—evidence that it had escaped from captivity.

Labrador Duck, *Camptorhynchus labradorius* Gmelin.

Extinct. Formerly ranged from Labrador to Chesapeake Bay. No known occurrence for over sixty years.

Northern Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus alascanus* (J. K. Townsend).

Winter specimens of the Bald Eagle in this part of New England are all referable to this race, but there are no specimens from this County, where the species is regularly found in winter. The sub-species is, of course not identifiable in the field and hence must remain in the Hypothetical List, pending the receipt of a specimen.

White Gyrfalcon, *Falco rusticolus candicans* Gmelin.

Recorded as seen January 20, 1912, at Rowley. There is but one specimen of this white phase for all New England—from northern Maine. No unsupported sight record can properly establish it as a bird of Essex County and we therefore relegate it to the Hypothetical List.

Heath Hen, *Tympanuchus c. cupido* (Linnaeus).

Formerly a permanent resident, long since extirpated and now extinct. The western race of this species called the Greater Prairie Chicken, *T. c. americanus* (Reichenbach), is NOT extinct but is not found east of Indiana.

Eastern Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo silvestris* Vieillot.

Formerly a common permanent resident, long since extirpated; (see Bulletin for 1921, p. 5 *et seq.*).

Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini* (Sabine).

Reported seen at Gloucester September 16, 1928. This species is probably a very rare migrant and if so a specimen will ultimately be taken and the bird can then appear in the regular list. At present, its occurrence is considered only hypothetical.

Great Auk, *Plautus impennis* (Linnaeus).

Formerly ranged from Greenland to Florida and possibly bred in Massachusetts. Extinct.

Passenger Pigeon, *Ectopistes migratorius* (Linnaeus).

Formerly an abundant migrant and common summer resident. Extinct.

Northern Raven, *Corvus corax principalis* Ridgway.

Reported seen November 11, 1922 and again September 28, 1938, at Ipswich. There are no other records whatever from this County in a great many years but the bird is a rare resident coastwise in Maine and might easily stray this far. In the absence of a specimen we list it, of course, with the Hypotheticals.

Brewster's Warbler, *Vermivora pinus* x *chrysoptera*—a hybrid.

As such it may not appear in the main list. There are several credible sight records of its occurrence in the County.

Yellow-throated Warbler, *Dendroica dominica* (L.).

There are now three reasonably credible sight records of this species, probably the race *albilora*, but the evidence at hand still does not warrant taking it out of the Hypothetical List.

Louisiana Water-Thrush, *Seiurus motacilla* (Vieillot).

Two credible field identifications are now at hand but as with the preceding, it seems best to list it with the Hypotheticals.

Kentucky Warbler, *Oporonis formosus* (Wilson).

As explained in the 1938 list appearing elsewhere in this issue, it appears best to list this bird with the Hypotheticals. There is one, probably correct, field identification—May 21, 1938.

Nelson's Sparrow, *Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni* (Allen).

With no specimens known from New England and field identifications of the race utterly unacceptable it is not clear this form belongs even among the Hypotheticals.

Clay-colored Sparrow, *Spizella pallida* (Swainson).

There is only one alleged occurrence of this species in the County, an account of which is given elsewhere in this issue in the 1938 list. In the absence of a carefully determined specimen the species can rank only as an Hypothetical.

Harris's Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula* (Nuttall).

It is believed this bird has appeared at two banding stations in the County but the evidence of its occurrence is sufficient only to warrant listing it with the Hypotheticals.

The following ten forms have not been overlooked but are not deemed worthy of a place in even the Supplementary or Hypothetical List: Gray Sea Eagle; Texas Bob-white; European Dunlin; Thayer's Gull; Acadian Flycatcher; Hoyt's Horned Lark; Fish Crow; Golden-cheeked Warbler; Lazuli Bunting; and European Goldfinch.

The very considerable part which Ludlow Griscom has had in bringing about these corrections and additions will be apparent to those who have read the foregoing. Incidental to his studies of the northern Finches, certain shore birds, the local specimens in the Museum of Comparative Zoology and his enthusiastic and intelligent field work in our County he is responsible more than anyone, and perhaps more than all others together, for the data presented in this article. It should have been written by him but all efforts of the writer to persuade him to undertake it were of no avail. His own insistence that I should undertake the work was both generous and flattering. Generous also have been his efforts to cooperate. The few elements of disagreements were quickly smoothed out and I believe the final form has his almost complete approval. Nevertheless, as I look back over these few pages it is all too evident how much more lucid and scholarly would have been his presentation of the matters involved.

Peabody Museum of Salem, Mass.

CALENDAR FOR 1937 AND 1938
ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF MASSACHUSETTS

JANUARY 11, 1937. Regular meeting. Nineteen members and two guests present. Account of the work of the Biological Survey in North Dakota by Mr. Seth H. Low.

FEBRUARY 8, 1937. Regular meeting. Eleven members and one guest present. Evening devoted to field notes.

MARCH 8, 1937. Regular meeting. Nineteen members and two guests present. Mr. Joseph A. Hagar, Ornithologist to the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Game, read a paper on "The Protection of Hawks and Owls."

MARCH 22, 1937. Regular meeting. Fourteen members present. Field notes.

APRIL 12, 1937. Regular meeting. Fifteen members present. Mr. Donald Alexander spoke on birds seen en route on a motor trip to Florida.

APRIL 26, 1937. Regular meeting held at the Club Camp in Boxford. Fifteen members and one guest present. A picnic supper was followed by field notes.

MAY 10, 1937. Regular meeting held at the Club Camp in Boxford. Eighteen members present. Plans for the "River Trip" were discussed and field notes followed.

MAY 24, 1937. Regular meeting. Ten members present. Field notes and discussion of River Trip records.

JUNE 14, 1937. Regular meeting called at Club Camp in Boxford. Very few present. No formal meeting. Emilio talked at length.

JUNE 19, 1937. Special meeting. Informal outing. Few present. No notes or formal meeting.

SEPTEMBER 13, 1937. Regular meeting. Seven members present. Evening devoted to field notes.

OCTOBER 11, 1937. Regular meeting held at the Club Camp in Boxford. Eight members present. A nominating committee was appointed and field notes followed.

NOVEMBER 8, 1937. Regular meeting. Fifteen members present. Nominating committee reported following which Mr. Carl W. Buchheister spoke on "Bird-life at the National Audubon Societies' Camp at Hogg Island, Maine."

DECEMBER 13, 1937. Annual meeting. Sixteen members and one guest present. Judge Robert Walcott spoke on his experiences in conservation.

JANUARY 10, 1938. Regular meeting. Twelve members and one guest present. Evening devoted to field notes.

FEBRUARY 14, 1938. Regular meeting. Thirteen members and one guest present. The communication of the evening was on the identification of some of our more difficult species, together with brief notes on the Passenger Pigeon by Mr. Ralph Lawson and Mr. S. Gilbert Emilio, field notes followed.

MARCH 14, 1938. Regular meeting. Twelve members present. Communication was by Mr. Ralph Lawson and Mr. S. Gilbert Emilio on the identification of difficult species of Hawks.

MARCH 28, 1938. Regular meeting. Thirteen members and two guests present. Communication was by Mr. S. Gilbert Emilio on the "Identification of some of the Warblers, Sparrows, and Finches."

APRIL 11, 1938. Regular meeting. Eleven members and one guest present. Evening devoted to field notes.

APRIL 25, 1938. Regular meeting held at the Club Camp in Boxford. Fifteen members and one guest present. "River Trip" planned. Field notes followed.

MAY 9, 1938. Regular meeting held at the Club Camp in Boxford. Ten members and one guest present. The meeting was preceded and followed by short field trips. Field notes of a tolerably extensive character took up the meeting.

MAY 23, 1938. Regular meeting. Ten members and one guest present. Meeting devoted to a discussion of the preceding "River Trip."

JUNE 13, 1938. Club Camp. Dr. Stephen Maddock chosen chairman *pro tem*. Thirteen members and four guests present. Field notes including a lengthy talk by Granger about "foxes?" etc.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1938. Regular meeting. Ten members and one guest present. Evening devoted to summer field notes.

OCTOBER 10, 1938. Regular meeting. Thirteen members and three guests present. A nominating committee was appointed. Communication of the evening was by Mr. Benjamin Shreve on his collecting trip to the Bahamas during the past summer.

NOVEMBER 14, 1938. Regular meeting. Thirteen members and one guest present. Nominating committee reported. Communication from Mr. Ralph Lawson on "The Greater Snow Goose." Field notes followed.

DECEMBER 12, 1938. Annual meeting. Twenty-two members and one guest present. Evening devoted to an exhibition of elephant folio Audubon Plates which were commented on by Mr. S. Gilbert Emilio and Mr. F. E. Smith.



FORMER MEMBERS OF THE E.C.O.C.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Year of affiliation</i>	<i>Year of separation</i>
Abbott, Jacob B.	1936	1937
Ashworth, Fred	1917	1921
Averill, Eugene	1936	1938
Babson, Edward	1928	d.1936
Baker, Alfred	1922	1924
Barker, W. T.	1935	1937
Beckford, A. Courtney	1927	1929
Beckford, Arthur W.	Charter	1937
Berryman, Francis	1922	1924
Brown, C. Emerson	Charter	1933
Brown, Everett B.	1920	1927
Brown, Frank A.	Charter	1922
Brown, Sumner F.	1921	d.1924
Bryan, G. Warren	1925	1934
Bubier, George M.	Charter	d.1920
Chase, Charles E.	Charter	d.1938
Clark, W. Hobart	1924	1929
Cousins, Willard C.	Charter	1933
d'Este, John N.	Charter	1920
Donaldson, Major George C.	Charter	1934
Doolittle, Albert W.	1924	d.1937
Dwyer, Elmer F.	1921	1926
Emerson, Philip	1930	d.1937
Fanning, Dr. Walter G.	Charter	d.1925
Fay, S. Prescott	1927	1937
Felt, George R.	1919	d.1933
Fletcher, Hugh F.	1918	1924
Fletcher, Laurence B.	1922	1937
Floyd, Charles B.	1927	1935
Fowler, Albert B.	Charter	1932
Gifford, Frank S.	1917	1920
Gifford, Lawrence W.	1922	1929
Goodale, Loring B.	1920	1927
Goodridge, James W.	1918	d.1923
Griffin, Bertram S.	1919	d.1931
Haley, Francis N.	1933	1936
Hubon, William P.	Charter	d.1931
Hunt, William S.	1917	d.1920
Jackson, Russell L.	1935	1936

Jeffrey, Thomas B.	1925	1932
Jenkins, Stephen W.	1927	1936
Little, Charles R.	1933	1935
Little, David M.	1920	d.1923
Little, Philip	Charter	1936
Lockwood, Dunbar	1928	1938
Long, William B.	1927	1932
Lord, J. Anderson	Charter	1928
McGuffin, Victor H.	1920	1922
McNeill, David C.	1921	1927
McNeill, Ralph H.	1921	1926
May, Dr. John B.	1928	1936
Moon, Wilbur D.	1917	d.1938
Morgan, Rev. Garfield	1921	1924
Morley, Arthur	1920	d.1933
Morse, Albert P.	Charter	d.1936
Morse, Prof. Edward S.	Charter	d.1925
Morse, Frank E.	Charter	1933
Newell, Frank F.	1922	d.1925
Nichols, Frederick M.	1921	d.1924
Ordway, Frank L.	1927	1932
Osborne, Arthur A.	Charter	d.1935
Osgood, Edward H.	1928	1933
Perkins, Porter J.	1920	1925
Phelan, Joseph C.	1921	d.1931
Phillips, Dr. John C.	Charter	d.1938
Preston, Charles H.	Charter	d.1934
Ritchie, Sanford	1927	d.1931
Robbins, Reginald C.	Charter	1921
Sanders, Richard D.	1921	1932
Smith, Fred A.	1920	1927
Spalding, Frederic P.	Charter	d.1934
Stockbridge, David L.	1921	1926
Stocker, Philip	1937	1938
Stoddard, Walter P.	1922	1926
Stubbs, Arthur P.	Charter	d.1932
Tenney, Ward M.	1921	1932
Tolman, Dr. Henry, Jr.	Charter	1922
Townsend, Dr. Charles W.	Charter	d.1934
Vaughn, Albert	1921	1922
Very, Nathaniel T.	1927	1932
Welch, George O.	Charter	d.1919

Whitney, Charles F.	1922	1935
Whittle, Charles L.	1922	1926
Wilson, Frank H.	1918	1923
Young, Alfred C.	1921	1922

LIST OF MEMBERS

Alexander, Donald C. (1936)	Y. M. C. A., Lowell
Batchelder, Edgar M. (1938)	690 Lynnfield Street, Lynn
Bates, Walter E. (1917)	Fayette Court, Lynn
Benson, Frank W. (Charter)	14 Chestnut Street, Salem
Benson, George E. (Charter)	31 Summer Street, Salem
Bosson, Campbell (1917)	560 Concord Avenue, Belmont
Brown, Norman R. (1931)	20 Ash Street, Danvers
Bruley, Roger S. (1920)	64 Center Street, Danvers
Bushby, Fred W. (1918)	17 Washington Street, Peabody
Caswell, Herbert H., Jr. (1938)	1 Middle Street, Marblehead
Cogswell, Lawrence W. (1925)	Temple Court, Salem
Curtis, Richard C. (1935)	30 State Street, Boston
Cushing, Milton L. (1917)	Suffield, Connecticut
Dickson, Ernest P. (1931)	27 Essex Street, Lynn
Dodge, Ernest S. (1934)	Peabody Museum, Salem
Downs, Prentiss (1935)	Belmont Hills School, Belmont
Doyle, John F. (1926)	35 Congress Street, Boston
Emilio, S. Gilbert (Charter)	7 Winter Street, Salem
Foster, Maxwell E. (1930)	Topsfield
Foye, Elmer P. (1933)	210 Essex Street, Salem
Gifford, Morris P. (1918)	2 Chestnut Street, Boston
Giles, Ruel E. (1935)	8 Walnut Street, Danvers
Granger, Ralph T. (1933)	123 Edgemere Road, Lynn
Greeley, Robert H. (1935)	21 Birch Street, Saugus
Griscom, Ludlow (1928)	21 Fayerweather Street, Cambridge
Guild, Henry R. (1936)	1 Federal Street, Boston
Ingraham, Phocion J. (1920)	235 Lowell Street, Peabody
Jones, Gardner M. (Charter)	119 Federal Street, Salem
Kelley, Herbert W. (1927)	3 Willow Street, Winchester
Kelley, Mark E. (1920)	52 Sutton Street, Peabody
Kelley, Mark E., Jr. (1935)	Bowdoin College
Lawson, Frank B. (1936)	88 Washington Square, Salem
Lawson, Ralph (Charter)	88 Washington Square, Salem
Long, Harry V. (1921)	260 Clarendon Street, Boston
Low, Daniel S. (1933)	16 Cypress Street, Marblehead

Low, Seth H. (1930)	Kensal, North Dakota
Marcy, William A. (1931)	9 Hawthorne Street, Lynn
Means, Robert W. (1920)	45 Vernon Street, Boston
Means, W. Gordon (1925)	Essex
Morrison, Alva (Charter)	19 Congress Street, Boston
Moulton, Charles E. (1917)	72 Maple Street, Lynn
Newhall, Milo A. (1921)	12 Temple Court, Salem
Nichols, Rodman A. (Charter)	7 South Pine Street, Salem
Parrot, Edward G. (1936)	140 Federal Street, Salem
Perkins, Wesley T. (1938)	16 Corning Street, Beverly
Perry, George L. (1934)	68 Thurston Street, Somerville
Porter, Willard B. (Charter)	5 Lee Street, Salem
Preston, Charles P. (1925)	Montross, Virginia
Proctor, George N. (Charter)	50 Congress Street, Boston
Rand, Stuart C. (1934)	30 State Street, Boston
Raymond, John M. (1927)	Main Street, Hamilton
Robinson, John, Jr. (Charter)	18 Summer Street, Salem
Ropes, Col. Charles F. (1927)	67 Dearborn Street, Salem
Ropes, Lawrence G. (1934)	11 Brimble Avenue, Beverly
Ropes, Willis H. (Charter)	83 Federal Street, Salem
Sears, Judge George B. (1922)	37 Cherry Street, Danvers
Shreve, Benjamin (1928)	29 Chestnut Street, Salem
Shreve, William H. (1935)	29 Chestnut Street, Salem
Smith, Francis E., Jr. (1938)	1 Wolcott Terrace, Winchester
Southack, Theodore L., Jr. (1933)	10 Summit Avenue, East Lynn
Spofford, Charles A. (1918)	23 Elm Street, Danvers
Stevens, Harold C. (1933)	Ropes Memorial, Salem
Taber, Wendell (1934)	3 Mercer Circle, Cambridge
Taylor, Arthur W. (1919)	41 Lovett Street, Beverly
Teel, George M. (Charter)	190 Maple Street, Danvers
Tortat, Wiliam R. M. (Charter)	6 Perkins Street, Peabody
Walcott, Judge Robert (1920)	152 Brattle Street, Cambridge
Wilkinson, Robert H. (1922)	Asbury Grove
Wolfe, Rolland Emerson (1930)	Depot Road, Boxford

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Buchheister, Carl W. (1938)	66 Newbury Street, Boston
Collins, John A., Jr. (1935)	20 Quincy Street, Lawrence
Ellis, Ralph, Jr. (1932)	2420 Ridge Road, Berkeley, California
Kincaide, W. Edward (1937)	Amesbury
Safford, Charles A. (1935)	P.O. Box 103, Newburyport

In Memoriam

CHARLES E. CHASE

ALBERT W. DOOLITTLE

PHILIP EMERSON

RICHARDS B. MACKINTOSH

WILBUR D. MOON

DR. JOHN C. PHILLIPS

PUBLICATIONS

for sale by

THE ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

<i>Supplement to The Birds of Essex County, Mass., Dr. Charles W. Townsend. 1920. 196 pp.</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>
<i>Annual Bulletins, 1919-1936 inclusive</i>	<i>.50 ea.</i>
<i>Annual Bulletins, 1937-8</i>	<i>1.00</i>
<i>A Few Complete Sets</i>	<i>7.00</i>
<i>Index to First 10 Numbers</i>	<i>.10</i>
<i>Check List, 1921. Brief Migration Data. 28 pp.</i>	<i>.05</i>
<i>Check List, 1922. More complete migration data and brief status of occurrence, both with ruled pages for field records</i>	<i>.10</i>
<i>"A List of Birds of Essex County, Mass." Giving status of occurrence, full records and migration data. In 1931 Bulletin</i>	<i>.50</i>
<i>"A Field List of Essex County Birds." 1934. Separates on more durable paper of the final 28 pages of the 1934 Bulletin, with ruled pages for notes</i>	<i>.20</i>

Address

ELMER P. FOYE 210 ESSEX STREET, SALEM, MASS.

Published April, 1939

Phillips Library



3 6234 10001720 4

